ΑD					

Award Number: W81XWH-09-1-0419

TITLE: Genetically Modified Porcine Skin Grafts for Treatment of

Severe Burn Injuries

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: David H. Sachs, M.D.

CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts General Hospital,

Boston, MA 02114-2621

REPORT DATE: July 2010

TYPE OF REPORT: Annual

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command

Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

#### DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT:

X Approved for public release; distribution unlimited

The views, opinions and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision unless so designated by other documentation.

### Form Approved REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE OMB No. 0704-0188 Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (0704-0188), 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS. 1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) 2. REPORT TYPE 3. DATES COVERED (From - To) 01-07-2010 Annual 1 JUL 2009 - 30 JUN 2010 4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE 5a. CONTRACT NUMBER Genetically Modified Porcine Skin Grafts for Treatment of **5b. GRANT NUMBER** Severe Burn Injuries W81XWH-09-1-0419 5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER 6. AUTHOR(S) 5d. PROJECT NUMBER David H. Sachs, M.D. and Curtis L. Cetrulo, Jr., M.D. 5e. TASK NUMBER 5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER 7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) 8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT Massachusetts General Hospital NUMBER Boston, MA 02114-2621 9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) 10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012 11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) 12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited 13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Burns, skin grafts, genetic modification, swine, pigskin 14. ABSTRACT The most significant research findings in this time period include the fact that we have demonstrated that our genetically-modified pigskin grafts will perform as well human cadaveric allogeneic skin grafts as a temporary biologic cover for severe burn injuries for war-fighters. Our xenoskin transplants from pig to baboons have confirmed that our genetically-modified pigskin grafts last as long as baboon allograft skin, are not damaged by freezing, and are effective at treating full-thickness skin injuries typically seen in burn injuries sustained in combat. In addition, a short course of immunosuppression may enhance the efficacy of these grafts. Finally, our in vitro analysis has suggested a number of immunologic targets that may improve this approach in particular and xenotransplantation in

17. LIMITATION

OF ABSTRACT

UU

18. NUMBER

OF PAGES

139

general.

a. REPORT

15. SUBJECT TERMS

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:

b. ABSTRACT

c. THIS PAGE

Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39.18

USAMRMC

19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON

19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area

### **Table of Contents**

<u>Pag</u>	<u>e</u>
Introduction4	
Body4	
Key Research Accomplishments9	
Reportable Outcomes10	
Conclusion11	
References11	
Appendices13	
Appendix 113	
Appendix 217	
Appendix 323	
Appendix 426	
Appendix 530	
Appendix 641	
Appendix 744	
Appendix 845	
Appendix 953	
Appendix 1054	
Appendix 1156	
Appendix 1261	
Appendix 13102	<u>)</u>
Appendix 14108	}
Appendix 15109	)

#### INTRODUCTION

The subject of this project invol ves "W ound i nfection and healing" — with special reference to "New treatment protocols, drugs, biologics, and devices to reduce wound-related infect ions and accelerate wound healing." In particular, we are attempting to validate the effectiven ess of a novel treatment for severe burns using a genetically-modified porcine skin graft. The **purpose** of this project is to determ ine whether genetically-modified pig skin grafts will perform as well as or better than human cadaveric allogeneic skin grafts as a tem porary biologic cover for severe burn i njuries [1-4]. Since human cadaveric allogeneic skin grafts are the current "gold standard" for temporary skin grafts [5;6] and since our genetically-modified pig skin would have significant advantages related to availability, cost, safety and ethical considerations [7-10] the **scope of the research** will be to develop this new product to serve as skin grafts for the initial treatment of severe battlefield injuries, including burns and other causes of significant skin loss.

#### **BODY**

This section of the Year 1 of 3 Annual Report describes the research accomplishments associated with the tasks/specific aims described in our approved Statement of Work, in particular, with regard to Specific Aim 1. To date, we have perfor med 50 grafts in the first 2/3 of Year 1. As such, we are on schedule with regard to completion of the project.

**Specific Aim 1:** Compare the survival of skin grafts to baboons from GalT-KO swine to the survival of skin grafts from unmodified swine or from allogeneic baboons and study the response of these grafts by gross examination, by histology and evaluation of the cellular and humoral immune responses evoked.

Task 1. Develop and Compare survival of skin grafts to baboons from GalT-KO swine:

- 1a. Evaluate effect of immunosuppression on outcome
- 1b. Evaluate role of graft technique to outcome
- 1c. Evaluate effect of skin treatment and storage

#### Clinical and Histopathologic Data

Confirmation of Preliminary Data and Reproducibility of Xenotransplantation Model: Our first set of experiments was designed to replicate the experimental conditions of those described in our preliminary data (pg. 13, Appendix 1) and to begin to collect data for Tasks 1a and 1b. Two baboons, B266 and B267, were transplanted with the sc heme shown on pg. 17, Appendix 2, slide 1. Sp lit-thickness recipient wounds were prepared with a derm atome, and the fresh, split -thickness grafts from the 4 skin sources ( Self baboon, Allogeneic baboon, Gal+ swine and GalT-KO swine) were placed. The only change we made involved placing a border of no rmal skin between grafts to avoid the local infections observed in our initial experiment, which may have affected the outcome and/or clinical appearance of the graft immediately adjacent. B266 received no immunosuppression, while B267 received cyclosporine. The dosing regimen was based on the cyclosporine (CyA) regimen that we have used successfully for induction of long-term survival of renal allografts across a class I allogeneic barrier [11].

The results confirm ed our initial findings and cl early dem onstrated the reproducibility of this xenotransplantation model. In both B266 (no immunos uppression) and B267 (CyA), the Gal+ skin was rejected within 4 days, appearing as a "white graft" that had not vasc ularized (pg. 18, Appendix 2, slide 2, yellow arrow). By contrast, in baboon B266, the GalT-KO skin graft was still viable at postoperative day 7, similar to the allogeneic skin graft (pg. 18, Appendix 2, slide 2, red arrows). Both were beginning to show signs, both by gross inspection and his stopathologically, of rejection, and by day 11, both were rejected.

Results were similar for B267, with possibly a slightly extended time course for survival of both allogeneic and GalT-KO skin grafts, likely due to the effect of the cyclosporine. (pg. 19, Appendix 2, slide 2, red arrows). By day 11, both were rejected, however, both clinically and his stologically. Hist ology exhibited healthy derm is and epiderm is on self skin (pg. 19, Appendix 2, slide 4, yellow arrow), and complete vacuolization of dermis-consistent with complete rejection-of Gal+skin (pg. 20, Appendix 2, slide 4, red arrow), by POD 7. In contrast, early rejection of both GalT-KO (pg. 20, Appendix 2, slide 5, yellow arrow), and Allo (pg. 21, Appendix 2, slide 5, red arrow) grafts were observed at POD 7, both of which showed a marked lymphocyte infiltrate in the dermis. The delay in rejection of GalT-KO grafts due to the presence of CyA is evident histologically when baboons B266 (no CyA) and B267 (CyA) are compared at POD 7: B266 shows a lymphocytic infiltrate in the derm is and a sloughed epidermis (pg. 22, Appendix 2, slide 6, yellow arrow), while B267 shows an intact epiderm is and dermis with only a modest lymphocytic infiltrate (consistent with *early* rejection) (pg. 22, Appendix 2, slide 6, red arrow).

Investigation of Possible Confounding Effects of More Than One Graft Type: The next experim ents were designed to address an im-portant question involving Tasks 1a, b, and c: that it is possible-though unlikely-that rejection of a Gal+ skin graft, or even of an a llogeneic baboon skin graft, could influence the survival of the GalT-KO skin graft on the same animal. We evaluated clinical, histopathological and in vitro immunologic data on the next two animals to examine whether there was evidence to support this hypothesis (and therefore require a single-graft-per-animal approach rather than a more efficient 4-grafts-per-animal approach, which also provides an advantage of an internal control both clinically and immunologically).

We utilized the following schematic for the next two baboons, B268 and B269 (pg. 23, Appendix 3, slide 1). Note that, by not grafting Gal+ sk in onto this baboon, we elim inated the possibility of a clinical immunologic effect on the GalT-KO graft secondary to increased inflammatory mediators that may occur from the rejection of a Gal+ graft in the same individual baboon. We found no such effect: the GalT-KO and Allo skin grafts behaved similarly to the previous two baboons, again both surviving intact until day 7 (pg. 24, Appendix 3, slide 2, red arrows).

Conversely, in animal B269, we tested the effect of Gal+ rejection on the baboon's immunologic response to the Allogeneic graft. Again, we found no such effect: the Allo skin graft survived intact until day 7 (pg. 25, Appendix 3, slide 3, red arrow). These results suggested that a more efficient, 4-grafts-per-animal approach might allow more rapid accumulation of data with more efficient use of animals. In addition, the self and Gal+ grafts would provide an advantage of an internal control in each animal both clinically and immunologically.

Confirmation of Second-Set Rejection, Processing of Frozen Grafts, Grafting on Full-Thickness Wound Beds: The next set of experim ents was designed to address an important question involving Tasks 1b, and c, i.e. Would humoral sensitization and rejection proceed identically for a second set of skin grafts of Allo and GalT-KO grafts given to a previously grafted baboon (i.e. regrafting baboons B266 and B267)? In other words, what is the relative sensitization potency of Allo vs. non -Gal antigens once they have been "seen" by a prim ate's immune system? The answer to the is question would have potential implications for clinical use of the GalT-KO skin grafts if a sec ond graft was necessary on a burned soldier, and suggests another possible use for GalT-KO skin- a combination approach- when cadaver skin is also available to treat a soldier. For example, if a second graft was necessary for a burned soldier, after an initial cadaver graft had been placed, knowledge that the patient would be not have been se nsitized to non-Ga 1 antigens by the cadaver skin graft- a phenom enon that has been de monstrated for solid organ xenotransplantation [12]would allow use of GalT-KO skin after the cadaver graft sloughs (or vice versa), thereby buying time for the metabolic recovery of the patien t prio r to defi nitive wound coverage. This treatm ent algorithm has significant potential for improved outcomes in severe burns.

In addition, we utilized these anim als as an opportunity to acquire early data regarding two other variables, processing of frozen skin grafts, and grafting on a full-thickness wound bed, both of which are important military practicalities. We utilized the schematic shown on pgs. 26-27, Appendix 4, slides 1 and 2, for regrafting of baboons B266 and B267. We observed rapid rejection of both Allo and GalT-KO second-set skin grafts, with no difference in pace of rejection. Grafts were rejected by day 4 (pgs. 28-29, Appendix 4, slides 3, 4). We noted no difference between fresh and frozen grafts in terms of early take, and graft take was excellent on a full thickness wound bed (evidenced by self grafts) (pgs. 28-29, Appendix 4, slides 3, 4). Determination of whether sensitization to Allo affects survival of a subsequent GalT-KO skin graft, and vice versa, is in progress.

**Frozen Grafts and Full-Thickness Wound Beds:** To con firm that the processing of frozen grafts has no effect on GalT-KO skin viability, and that GalT-KO skin grafts will take on full-thickness wound beds as well as split-thickness, we performed autografts on GalT-KO pigs (i.e. pig-to-self-pig) on both full and split-thickness wound beds comparing fresh and frozen skin (Tasks 1b and c). We performed these experiments to assure that the rapid rejection of second-set grafts was due to sensitization and not to technical factors regarding our freezing protocolor wound bed preparation (theoretically, grafts should take equally well on split or full thickness wound beds). We observed no differences, as all grafts healed successfully. Appendix 5 (pg. 30) shows viable fresh and frozen auto logous grafts on split thickness beds intraoperatively, and on PODs 0, 1, 3, 8, and 14 (pgs. 30-34, slid es 1-5), as well as viable fresh and frozen autologous grafts on *full-thickness* wound beds on PODs 0, 3, 7, 23, and 51 (pgs. 35-40, slides 6-11).

**Xenoskin Transplantation on Full-Thickness Wound Beds:** The next set of experiments was designed to replicate the experimental conditions of those diagrammed on pg. 17, Appendix 2, s lide 1, however on *full-thickness* wound beds, representative of in juries requiring graf ting in the field (Tasks 1a,b,and c). Two baboons, B280 and B282, were transplanted with the eschematic described on pg. 41, Appendix 6, slide 1. Full-thickness recipient wounds were created with a scalpel, and the different, fresh, split-thickness grafts from the 4 skin sources (**Self** baboon, **Allogeneic** baboon, **Gal**+ swine and **GalT-KO** swine) were placed. B280 received no immunosuppression, while B282 received cyclosporine.

The results of these experiments were consistent with our initial findings on sp lit-thickness wound beds and clearly demonstrated the reproducibility of our xenotransplantation model in clinically-relevant *full-thickness* wounds. In both B280 (no immunos uppression) and B282 (CyA), the Gal+ sk in was rejected within 4 days, appearing as a "white graft" that did not vascularize (pgs. 42-43, Appendix 6, slides 2 and 3, yellow arrows). By contrast, in baboon B280 the GalT-KO skin graft — was viable at postoperative e day 7, similar to the allogeneic skin graft. B oth were beginning to show signs of rejection both visibly and histopathologically, and by day 11, both were rejected, as previously found (pg. 42, Appendix 6, slide 2, red arrows). Results were similar for B282, in which both the GalT-KO and allogeneic skin were clinically viable at postoperative day 7 (pg. 43, Appendix 6, slide 3, red arrows). In vitro analysis is currently underway in these experiments.

**Xenoskin Transplantation of Fresh vs. Frozen Grafts on Full-Thickness Wound Beds:** We next examined fresh vs. frozen grafts on full-thickness wound beds (Tasks 1b and c). Two baboons, B283 and B285, were transplanted according to the schematic described on pg. 44, Appendix 7, slide 1. Full-thickness recipient wounds were created with a scalpel, and the different, fresh or frozen split-thickness grafts (that had been previously harvested and frozen one week preoperatively) from the 4 skin sources ( **Self** baboon, **Allogeneic** baboon, **Gal**+ swine and **GalT-KO** swine) were placed. Neith er B 283 nor B285 received immunosuppression. The results again demonstrated that both fresh and frozen xenografts and allografts enjoyed comparable survival on full thickness defects. Results were similar for B283 and B285, in which both the fresh and frozen GalT-KO and allogeneic skin grafts were clinically viable at postoperative day 7. Control self grafts show ed 100% acceptance and surv ival and Gal+ grafts again fa iled to engraft, appearing as "white grafts". In vitro analysis is also underway in these experiments.

#### Summary of Clinical and Histopathologic Data

We have de monstrated that 1) GalT -KO skin xenotransplants from pig-to-baboon last at least as long as baboon allogeneic skin transplants; 2) second-set grafts reject rapidly, typical of a sensitized immune response; 3) graft survival is unaffected by freezing/thawing; and 4) graft survival is comparable on partial-thickness and full-thickness recipient wound beds.

## **a) Baboons B266, B267 (1<sup>st</sup> grafting):** (pgs. 17-22, Appendix 2)

- GalT-KO and Allo both rem ained intact until rejection between POD 7 and 11, per clinical and histologic findings
- Cyclosporine prolonged survival of both GalT-KO and Allo grafts
- Controls: Self (no rejection) and Gal+ skin (the Gal+ graft rejected in a hyperacute fashion, as predicted: the Gal+ graft was a "white graft" by POD4, sugges ting that it never vascularized because the vasculature was destroyed due to naturally-pre sent, pre-form ed anti-Gal antibodies in the baboon that initiated the com plement cascade and endothelial cell destruction)

### **b) Baboons B268, B269:** (pgs. 23-25, Appendix 3)

- GalT-KO and Allo rejected between POD 7 and 14
- Gal+ skin did not affect the survival of GalT-KO or Allo skin
- Controls: Self (no rejection) and Gal+ skin (POD 4 white graft again)

# c) Baboons B266, B267 ("2<sup>nd</sup> set" grafting (Regrafting following sensitization by the first set of grafts)): (pgs. 26-29, Appendix 4)

- GalT-KO and Allo rejected by POD 4 ( more quick ly than in the f irst set in which they rejected somewhere between POD 7 and 11
- Neither frozen/thawed grafts nor full thickness wound beds detrim entally effected early survival of the grafts
- Cyclosporine had no effect on the 2nd set rejection time of both GalT-KO and Allo grafts

## d) Pig-to-pig Split-thickness wound beds, fresh vs. frozen GalT-KO autografts: (pgs. 30-34, Appendix 5)

• Freezing and thawing of grafts did not detrimentally affect survival of the autografts

## e) Pig-to-pig Full-thickness wounds beds, fresh vs. frozen GalT-KO autografts: (pgs. 35-40, Appendix 5)

Neither freezing and thawing nor use of full thickness wound be ds detrimentally affected survival of grafts

#### **f) Baboons B280, B282:** (pgs. 41-43, Appendix 6)

• Full thickness wound beds did not detrimentally affect survival of the xenogeneic Galt-KO skin grafts

### **g) Baboons B283, B285:** (pg. 44, Appendix 7)

• Freezing and thawing of grafts did not detrim entally affect survival of the xenogen eic Galt-KO skin grafts

#### In Vitro Data Analysis

- 1) We have demonstrated that baboon recipients of skin grafts from swine that express the Gal antigen (i.e. Gal+ swine) reject Gal+ skin grafts in a hyperacute manner, presumably due to preformed antibodies (B cell response to prim ary grafting). Antibody assays were consistent with this hypothesis. For exam ple, ELISA data (pg. 45, Fig. 1, Appendix 8) showed the presence of pre-form ed anti-Gal IgM (top panel) and IgG (bottom panel) antibodies in baboon B266. A similar result was seen for baboon B267 (pg. 46, Fig. 2, Appendix 8), and Gal+ skin grafts on both baboons led to white grafts.
- 2) Conversely, examination of B cell responses by analyzing FACS data showed that neither anti-**Allo** IgM or IgG antibodies nor anti-**nonGal** IgM or IgG antibodies (anti-nonGal antibodies = baboon antibodies to swine antigens other than the Gal moiety) were present pretransplant in the baboon (pg. 47, Fig. 3, Appendix 8). FACS data also showed that **Allo** antibody levels did not ri se significantly after **Allo** skin transplantation (pg. 48, Fig. 4, Appendix 8) a finding consistent with the expected T cell-m ediated mechanism of allotransplantation rejection rather than B cell/antibody-mediated rejection.
- 3) T-cell responses involved in primary baboon responses to **Xeno** vs. **Allo** skin grafts were suggested by in vitro study with the **Mixed Lymphocyte Reaction (MLR):** After the 1st skin grafts in B266 a nd B267, MLR assays showed a *pre* skin transplant **Allo** T cell response stronger than the **Xeno** T cell p re skin transplant response (pg. 49, Fig. 5, Appendix 8). The **Xeno** T cell response was stronger than the **Allo** response *post* skin grafting (POD 14, POD 21), however. These results are consistent with known relative T cell responses of allogeneic and xenogeneic transplantations.
- 4) In baboon B267, which was treated with Cyclosporine A, the CyA suppressed both **Allo** and **Xeno** T cell responses, as expected. This suppression in T cell reactivity can be observed by comparing the counts per minute (cpm) for the responses at each of the time points, which have lower cpms (see red circles around cpm values on pgs. 49-50, Figs 5 and 6, Appendix 8).
- 5) With regard to **T-cell responses** involved in secondary baboon responses after 2nd-set skin grafting (i.e. post-sensitization), **Xeno** T cell responses were stronger than **Allo**, and CyA had little ef fect (the CyA dose may be too low to suppress a sensitized T cell response) (pgs. 51-52, Figs. 7 and 8, Appendix 8).
- 6) Clinical observation of more rapid rejection of second-set grafts suggested sensitization by the first set of grafts. Gal+ grafts rapidly reject ed again, s imilar to the f irst set, but n ow both the GalT-KO and Allo grafts also rapidly reject ed, consistent with presen sitization due to the previous nonGal swine and Allo baboon antigens "seen" at the time of first grafting (Allo second-set grafts were from the original individual Allo donor baboons that donated first-set skin grafts). It appeared that the rejection of GalT-KO second-set grafts were rejected by an elevated B cell response, while second-set rejection of Allo grafts exhibited a less pronounced B cell response, a finding consistent with known mechanisms of T cell sensitization of second-set alloreactivity. FACS analysis supported these hypotheses. For example, FACS analysis of anti-nonGal IgG peaked at POD 7 after second-set GalT-KO grafts vs. POD 14 for first-set GalT-KO grafts (pg. 53, Fig. 1, Appendix 9). This effect was present, yet less pronounced for anti-Allo antibodies, nevertheless, the second-set Allo grafts rapidly rejected, suggesting a T cell contribution. These hypotheses are under further investigation in our laboratory.
- 7) We have demonstrated, with baboon B268 (self, GalT-KO, allo, CyA), that pre-transplant the Allo T-cell response was again found to be greater than the Xeno response (consistent with our baboon B266, B267 data) (pg. 54, Fig. 1, Appendix 10). However, post-transplant Xeno response increased and was similar to the Allo response by POD 30 (pg. 55, Fig. 2, Appendix 10).

- 8) We have demonstrated that baboon B268 exhibited a similar B-cell response to baboons B266 and B267. For example, FACS data exhibited anti-nonGal IgM and IgG absent pre-transplant, and increased post-transplant with a maximum level at POD 14. (similar to anti-nonGal antibody levels in B266 and B267) (pg. 56, Fig. 3, Appendix 10). Similarly, anti-Allo IgM and IgG showed no anti body pre-transplant, and increased to a post-transplant maximum at POD 14 (pg. 57, Fig. 4, Appendix 10). Therefore, in baboon B268, the absence of an immune reaction to Gal+ skin did not result in prolongation in the survival of the GalT-KO or Allo skin grafts.
- 9) Baboon B269 also exhibited a sim ilar B-cell response to baboons B266 and B267. For exam ple, FACS data exhibited anti-nonGal IgM an d IgG absent pre-transplant, and increased po st-transplant with a maximum level at POD 14. (sim ilar to anti-nonGal antibody levels in B266 and B267) (pg. 58, Fig. 1, Appendix 11). Similarly, anti-Allo IgM and IgG showed no antibody pre-transplant, and increased to a post-transplant maximum at POD 14 (pg. 59, Fig. 2, A ppendix 11). Anti-Gal antibody levels peaked at POD 7 as in previous anim als. Taken together, these data demonstrated that the pres ence of Gal+ graft does not accelerate rejection of Allo grafts.

#### Summary of In vitro data:

- 1) Primary grafting of Gal+ skin to baboons led to hyperacute rejection of the grafts (white graft), due to high levels of natural anti-Gal antibodies. Levels of anti-Gal antibodies increased after rejection and second-set grafts were again hyperacutely rejected.
- 2) Primary grafting of GalT-KO skin to baboons led to delayed rejection compared with Gal+ skin, and the GalT-KO skin lasted as long as allogeneic skin grafts before both rejected. The immune response to rejection of the GalT-KO was charac terized by a high B cell response, as indicated by an early, specific Ab increase after rejection of the skin graft.
- 3) Secondary grafting of GalT-KO skin resulted in hyperacute rejection (white graft), presumably due to the high levels of anti-non-Gal antibodies produced after rejection of the first GalT-KO graft.
- 4) Primary grafting of Allogeneic ba boon skin to baboons led to rejection in approxim ately the sa me time frame as did grafting of GalT-KO skin, but was characterized by a strong T cell response and a less vigorous B cell response, as in dicated by a slower and smaller early, specific Ab increase after rejection of the skin graft. Secondary Allogene ic grafts underwent accelerated but not hyperacute rejection, also consistent with a T-cell mediated form of rejection.

#### KEY RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- We have shown that primate recipients of skin grafts from pigs that express the Gal antigen (Gal+) reject these grafts in a hyperacute manner, consistent with the presence of anti-Gal antibodies responsible for hyperacute rejection of pig organs transplanted to primates (baboons). Thus, these unique, ge netically en gineered GalT-KO pigs will like ly be required for success of pig skin xenografts.
- We have demonstrated that primates do not exhibit this hyperacute rejection phenomenon when GalT-KO pig skin grafts are transplanted. In contrast, these xenotransplants last at least as long as primate skin allotransplants on split-thickness wounds. This r esult confirms our preliminary data and has important implications for the use of GalT-KO pig skin grafts to treat battlefield injuries.

- We have demonstrated that GalT-KO swine skin can cover full-thickness wound beds (analogous to those expected in battlefield wounds) in primates equally as well as allogenieic skin grafts. Previous studies used split thickness wound beds. Data from full-thickness wound beds are comparable to split- thickness data. Histo logically, the full-thickness bed is a better model, as analysis of these wounds can be performed without the confounding artifact of migration of peripheral skin cells into the wound area during healing. In addition, full-thickness wounds better represent the clinical situation, where 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree burns require immediate treatment.
- We have demonstrated no appreciable difference in graft function between fresh vs. frozen and thawed skin grafts from either swine or baboon sources. Thus frozen/thawed skin lasts at least as long as fresh skin.
- We have elucidated possible differential immunologic mechanisms involved in the response to xeno vs allo skin grafts following first or second transplants:
  - o Both Gal KO and Gal+ skin regr afting in sensitized animals led to high B cell responses, as indicated by early, specific Ab increases, resulting in hyperacute rejection (white graft).
  - Allo skin regrafting in sensit ized animals was followed by higher T cell responses and lower B cell responses than GalT- KO regrafting, as indicated by m arkedly increased T cell responsiveness without a correspondingly high, early Ab increase. The increased T cell responsiveness was likely responsible for accelerated rejection, but not a white graft.

#### **REPORTABLE OUTCOMES:**

Reportable outcomes that have resulted from this research include:

- Manuscripts- "Prolonged Survival of GalT-KO Swine Skin on Ba boons"- accepted by the journal *Xenotransplantation* (manuscript appears in Appendix 13).
- Abstracts- "Gal-KO Xe noskin Graft Survival is Co mparable to Skin Allotr ansplantation for Burn Injury", accepted to Plastic Su rgery Research Council, San Fr ancisco, CA, May, 2010 (Abstract appears in Appendix 14).
- Presentations- Transplantation Biology Research Center Presentation (Presentation in Appendix 15).
- Patents and licenses applied for and/or issued Covered by our GalT-KO patents
- Degrees obtained that are supported by this award- None
- Development of cell lines- None
- Tissue or serum repositories- None
- Informatics such as databases and animal models, etc.- None
- Funding applied for based on work supported by this award- Angelo Leto Barone, M.D.- Harvard University School of Medicine Tosteson Fellowship, 2010-2011.
- Employment or research opportuni ties applied for and/or received based on experience/training supported by this award:

- o Angelo Leto Barone, M.D.- Research Fellow , Transplantation Biol ogy Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School;
- Radbeh Torabi, M.D.- Research Fellow, Tr ansplantation Biology Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

#### **Summary of Results:**

The **importance and implications of the completed research** in this time period include: 1) confirm ation that our genetically-modified pigskin grafts should perform as well as human cadaveric allogeneic skin grafts as a temporary biologic cover for severe burn injuries; 2) demonstration that *genetically-modified GalT-KO skin grafts function well after freezing and thawing;* 3) demonstration that *genetically-modified GalT-KO skin grafts* provide an *effective cover for the full-thickness skin injuries* that are typically seen in burn injuries sustained in combat/ 4) demonstration that a short course of *immunosuppression may enhance the duration and quality* of these grafts; and 5) *in vitro* findings suggesting that antibody responses are likely to be more prevalent in the rejection of GalT-KO skin than in the rejection of allogeneic skin – suggesting that targeting of the B cell response to non-Gal antigens may improve results of GalT-KO skin grafts.

#### "So What" Section:

Evaluation of the results obtained during the first 8 months of this project have provided proof of concept for GalT-KO xenogeneic skin grafts under a number of different experimental circumstances. Based on these results, we can envision a frozen, readily available military burn dressing, capable of being transported in a medic's pack, that could be used as a lifesaving tem porary skin graft for immediate, sterile coverage of critically-injured areas of a blast-wounded or flame-burned soldier's body. The ability to quickly cover such wounds would prevent life-threatening infection and fluid/electrolyte loss while the combatant is evacuated to tertiary -care centers for definitive trea tment [1-6]. The Gal-KO pig skin graft would provide wound coverage for as many as 7-10 days post-injury before requiring definitive treatment with a permanent autograft. The treatment approach would replace or provide an adjunct to the current method of utilizing human cadaver allog raft skin as a temporary dressing- an extremely effective technique that is underutilized due to a lack of availability, portability, cost-effectiveness, as well as ethical and infectious disease concerns associated with the use of human tissue.

In addition, previous studies of responses to allogene ic vs. xenogeneic transplant s [12] make it likely that neither GalT-KO nor allogeneic sk in grafts will sensit ize for each oth er, so that s equential grafts may be possible, thereby extending total survival of the temporary cover for over two weeks. A herd of a propriate skin graft donor animals could be maintained for this purpose and could provide an attractive alternative to human cadaveric allograft skin as an emergency temporary graft. S ince human cadaveric allogeneic skin grafts are the current "gold standard" for temporary skin grafts [6-10], and since our genetically-modified pig skin would have significant advantages related to ava ilability, cost, safety and ethical considerations, we intend to develop model further as a new approach to the initial treatment of severe battlefield injuries.

#### **REFERENCES:**

- 1. Burnett M. **Healing the Burn.** Military Medical Technology 12[6]. 2008. Ref Type: Electronic Citation
- 2. Desai MH, Herndon DN, Broe meling L, Barrow RE, Ni chols RJ, Jr., and Rutan RL, Early burn wound excision significantly reduces blood loss. Ann Surg 211: 753-759, 1990.
- 3. Nakazawa H and Nozaki M, [Experience of im mediate burn wound ex cision and g rafting for p atients with extensive burns]. Nippon Geka Gakkai Zasshi 106: 745-749, 2005.

- 4. Wang YB, Ogawa Y, Kakudo N, and Kusumoto K, Survival and wound contraction of full-thickness skin grafts are as sociated with the degree of tissue ed ema of the graft bed in immediate excision an dearly wound excision and grafting in a rabbit model. J.Burn Care Res. 28: 182-186, 2007.
- 5. Hermans MH, A general overview of burn care. Int Wound.J 2: 206-220, 2005.
- 6. Still JM, Law EJ, and Craf t-Coffman B, An evaluation of excision with application of autografts or porcine xenografts within 24 hours of burn injury. Ann Plast.Surg 36: 176-179, 1996.
- 7. Tchervenkov JI, Epstein MD, Silb erstein EB, and Alexander JW, Early burn wound excision and skin grafting postburn trauma restores in vivo neutrophil delivery to inflamm atory lesions. Arch Surg 123: 1477-1481, 1988.
- 8. Jackson D, Topley E, Cason JS, and Lowbury EJ, Primary excision and grafting of large burns. Ann Surg 152: 167-189, 1960.
- 9. Janzekovic Z, Early surgical treatment of the burned surface. Panminerva Med 14: 228-232, 1972.
- 10. Leon-Villapalos J, Eldardiri M, and Dziewulski P, The use of hum an deceased do nor skin allograft in burn care. Cell Tissue Bank. 11: 99-104, 2010.
- 11. Rosengard BR, Ojikutu CA, Guzzetta PC, Smith CV, Sundt III TM, Nakajima K, Boorstein SM, Hill GS, Fishbein JM, and Sachs DH, Induction of specific tole rance to class I disparat e renal allografts in miniature swine with cyclosporine. Transplantation 54: 490-497, 1992.
- 12. Wong BS, Yamada K, Okumi M, Weiner J, O'Mall ey PE, Tseng YL, Dor FJ, Cooper DK, Saidm an SL, Griesemer A, and Sachs DH, Allose nsitization does not increase the ri sk of xenoreactivity to alpha1,3-galactosyltransferase gene-knockout m iniature swin e in patients on transplantation waiting lists. Transplantation 82: 314-319, 2006.

#### **APPENDIX 1**

#### PRELIMINARY DATA

**Results of a pig-to-primate skin graft using a GalT-KO pig:** In an attempt to evaluate whether the use of skin from GalT-KO swine would be of benefit in prolonging the survival of pig-to-primate skin grafts, we performed one proof-of-principle experiment. The recipient was B234, a 3-4 year old baboon that had previously been used in another experiment 8 months earlier, involving thymectomy and treatment with an immunosuppressant. By the time of this skin experiment, the baboon was healthy, and its blood cell counts and phenotypes had returned to baseline.

On the day of skin transplantation, a partial thickness section of skin (approximately 2x8 inches) was taken from the right dorsal shoulder horizontally towards the spine using a dermatome set at a depth of 24mm. Onto this skin bed, we placed four skin grafts side-by-side, as follows (left to right): 1) self skin, 2) GalT-KO pig skin from pig 16006, 3) Gal positive pig skin from pig 17944; and 4) skin from another baboon (allograft) B199 (Fig. 5A). The Gal-positive skin was from a pig genetically matched to the GalT-KO pig (except for the fact that the Gal-positive animal did contain the  $\alpha$ -1,3-galactosyltransferase gene). These skin grafts were obtained from the respective donors using the same dermatome with the same settings, although the blade was fresh for each animal. The skin grafts were kept moist and cold in a saline-filled Petri dish on ice while being trimmed to the proper size to fit the graft bed. The grafts were then sutured into place using 2-0 Ethilon. Biopsies for frozen and formalin samples were taken from the discarded portions of each graft. The wound was then covered with Bacitracin and

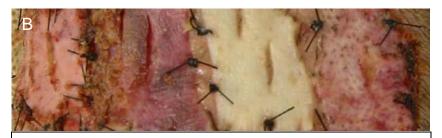


Figure 5: Skin grafts (from left to right): self; GalT-KO; Gal positive; allogeneic baboon. A) day 0; B) day 4 post-grafting

gauze, and a jacket was placed to prevent the baboon from scratching the wound.

Clinical course and gross findings: The animal was sedated and anesthetized to the skin evaluate grafts and draw blood on postoperative days 4, 7, 11, 15, 21, and 30. On each of these days, we examined, cleaned. and photographed the wound, took frozen and formalin biopsies,

drew blood for CBC and immunologic assays, and redressed the wound. By day 4, the

self and allo grafts were warm, pink, and healthy, implying that they had engrafted and begun to re-vascularize (Fig. 5B). The GalT-KO skin was also warm and pink, although demonstrating a slightly mottled appearance, indicating that it too had vascularized. In stark contrast, the Gal positive pig skin was cool and bright white, although still intact, indicating a "white graft", as previously described for skin grafts that are rejected hyperacutely due to preformed antibodies [50;51]. We inferred that this white graft had never engrafted nor re-vascularized (Fig. 5B), indicating a clear difference in behavior from the GalT-KO skin graft even as early as four days.

By day 7, the self skin was still pink and healthy, but the allo skin had begun to show rejection, as indicated by a brown, scab-like crust forming over the graft, similar to the appearance of the Gal positive pig skin at that time. In contrast, the GalT-KO skin was still warm, dark pink, and mostly intact, although a local superficial infection had caused some loss of integrity. This infection cleared after 3 days of 15 mg/kg vancomycin iv, and both the apparent inflammation and elevated white count returned to normal. By day 9, the allo skin had been totally rejected and was covered by scab, but a small amount of GalT-KO skin still remained intact. The self skin still appeared normal.

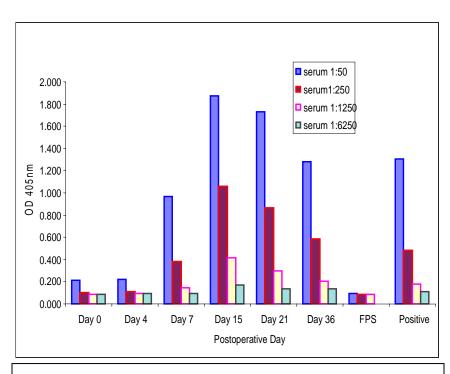
In summary, these gross examinations revealed that the Gal positive skin never engrafted, while allogeneic skin engrafted but was rejected by day 8-9. The GalT-KO skin appeared to have lasted even longer than the allograft, becoming vascularized in a similar fashion and being rejected only by day 11. These preliminary data suggest that GalT-KO skin may serve as well or better than allogeneic skin as an acute live skin covering for severe burn injuries.

Histologic examination: Histology of the skin grafts on animal B234 are shown in Fig. 6. Histology of the self skin showed normal skin except for a small amount of non-specific granulation tissue on day 7 and evidence of localized bacterial infection on day 9, consistent with gross inspection (above). Also consistent with gross observations, histology of the allo skin appeared to be normal on days 0 and only slightly vacuolated on day 4, but developed a cellular infiltrate consistent with rejection by day 7. By day 9, the allo skin was rejected and the pathology revealed only the underlying regenerating host skin bed.

Consistent with the gross observation of a white graft, the normal pig (i.e. Gal positive) skin never showed histologic evidence of engraftment. Histology on day 4 showed thrombi in small vessels, consistent with hyperacute rejection, leading to occlusion of the blood vessels, presumably due to preformed anti-Gal antibody. By day 7, the graft was necrotic (Fig. 6). In contrast, histologic examination of the GalT-KO skin graft showed engraftment of relatively normal skin on days 4 and 7, with only mild congestion. By day 9, the graft showed evidence for incipient cellular rejection similar to that seen in the allograft by day 7.

In summary, the histologic findings supported those from gross examination, and indicated that GalT-KO skin engrafted and re-vascularized in a baboon as well as or better than allogeneic skin, while normal pig skin was rejected hyperacutely. Again,

these results support the hypothesis that GalT-KO skin may serve as well or better than allogeneic skin as an acute live skin covering for severe burn injuries.



**Figure 7:** Sequential anti-Gal IgG ELISA assays following skin grafts on B234

In vitro analyses of anti-Gal antibodies: The results of an anti-Gal ELISA assay on sequential serum samples from baboon B234 are shown in Fig. 7. As seen in this figure, there were already low baseline levels of preformed anti-Gal IgG in this baboon at days 0 The levels and 4. started to rise by day 7 and peaked by day 15, indicating that the baboon had been

further sensitized to s of preformed anti-Gal

the Gal antigen by exposure to the Gal positive skin graft. Levels of preformed anti-Gal IgM (not shown) were higher initially and also increased greatly after day 4, peaking at day 15. Additional experiments showed that the preformed anti-Gal IgM was largely

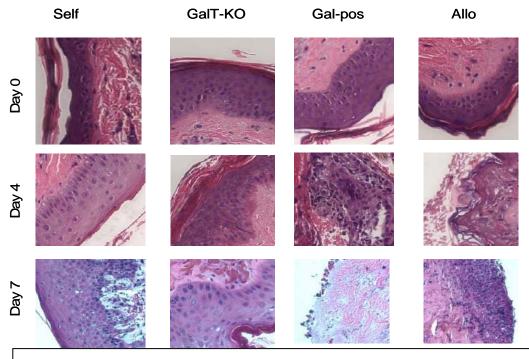
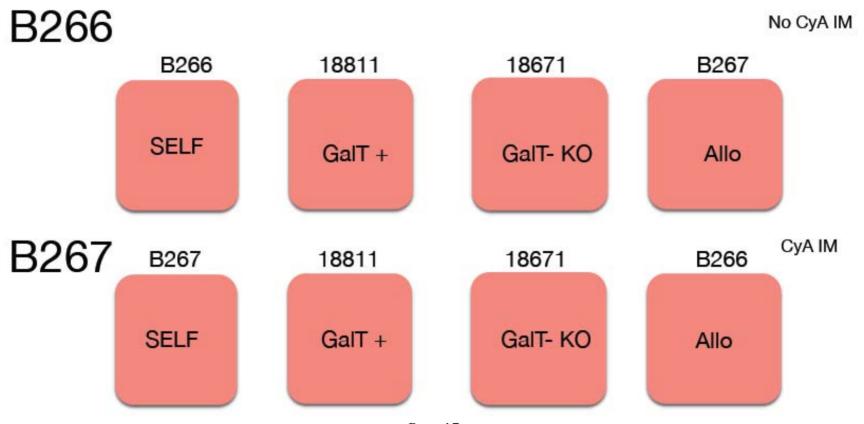


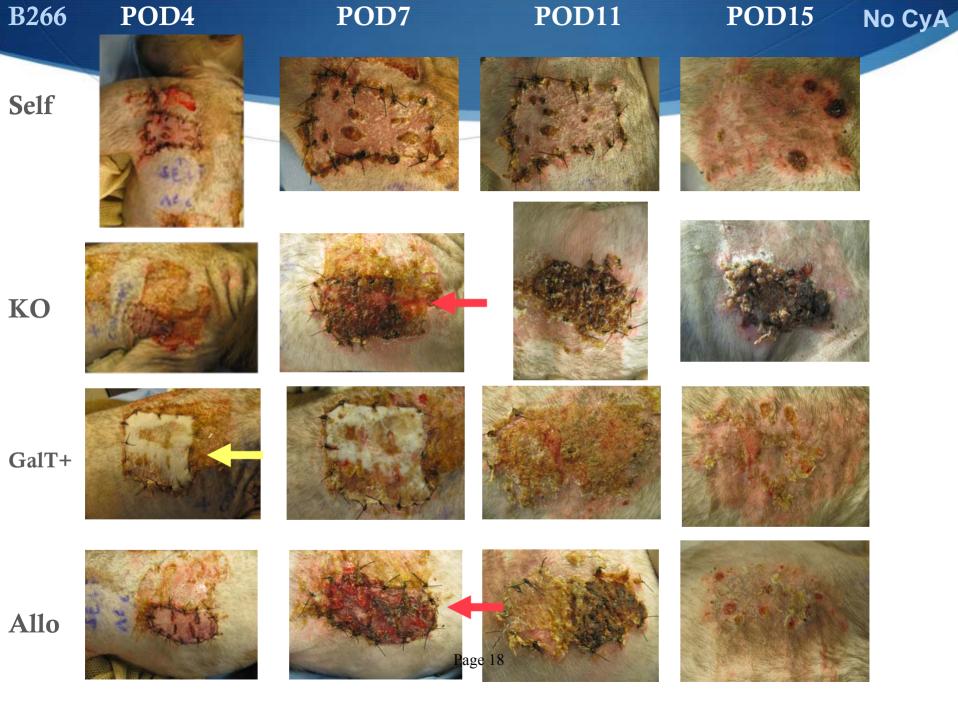
Figure 6: Histology of skin grafts on paboon B234, biopsies on days 0, 4 and 7

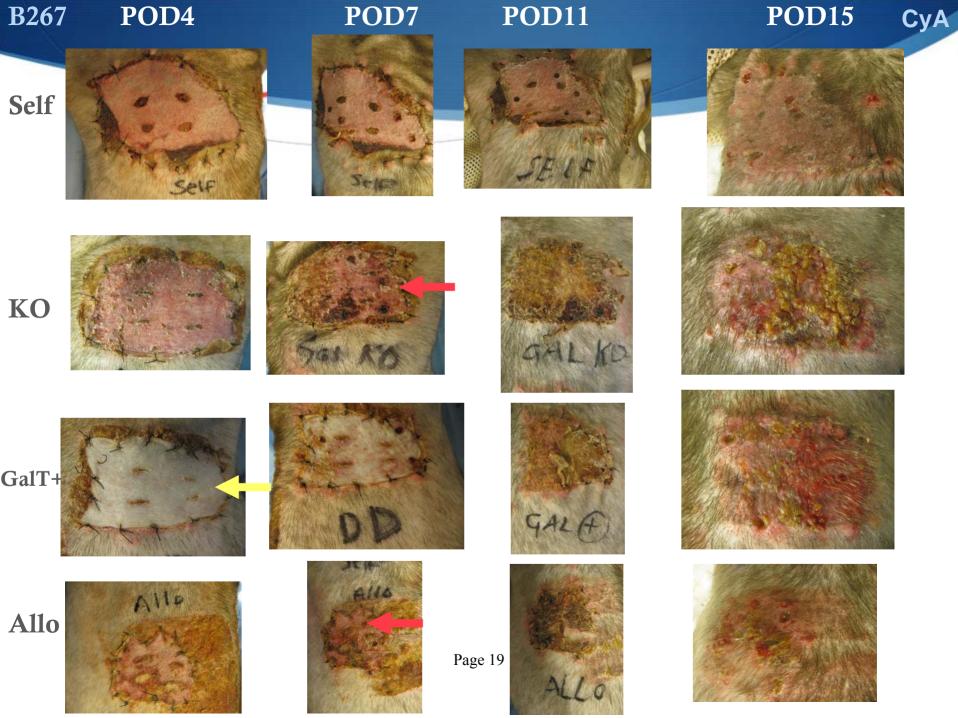
responsible for the cytotoxicity against Gal positive tissue.

## XENO SKIN GRAFTS



Page 17



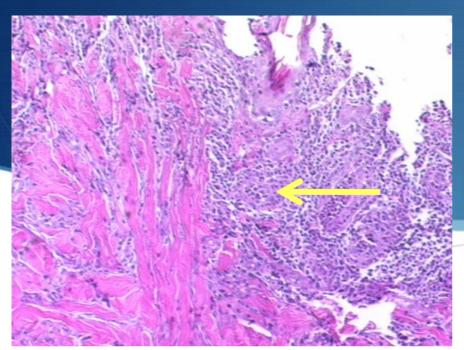




## Self skin POD4

**GalT+ POD4** 

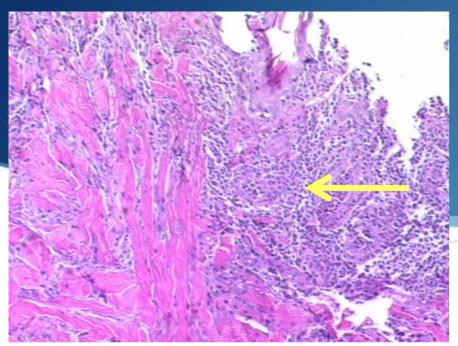




# B266 GalT-KO POD7 (no CyA)

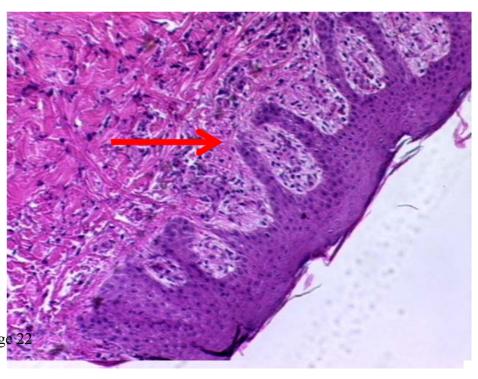
# B266 Allo POD7 (no CyA)



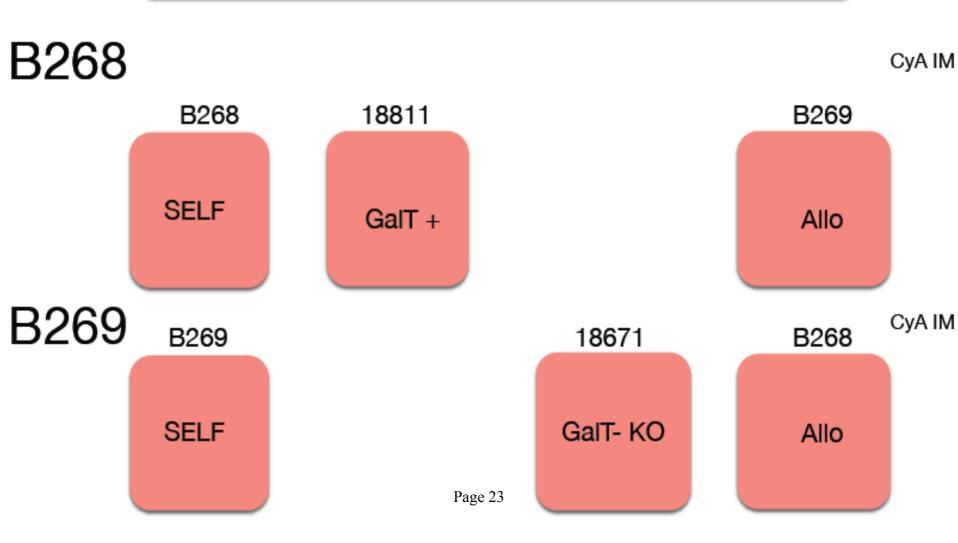


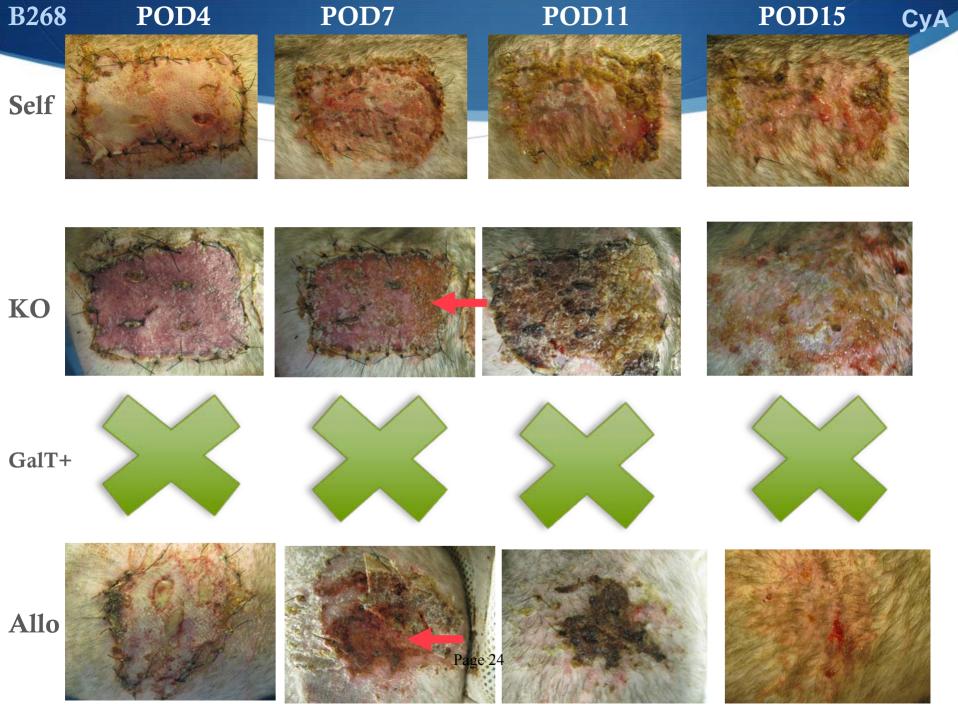
# B266 GalT-KO POD7 (no CyA)

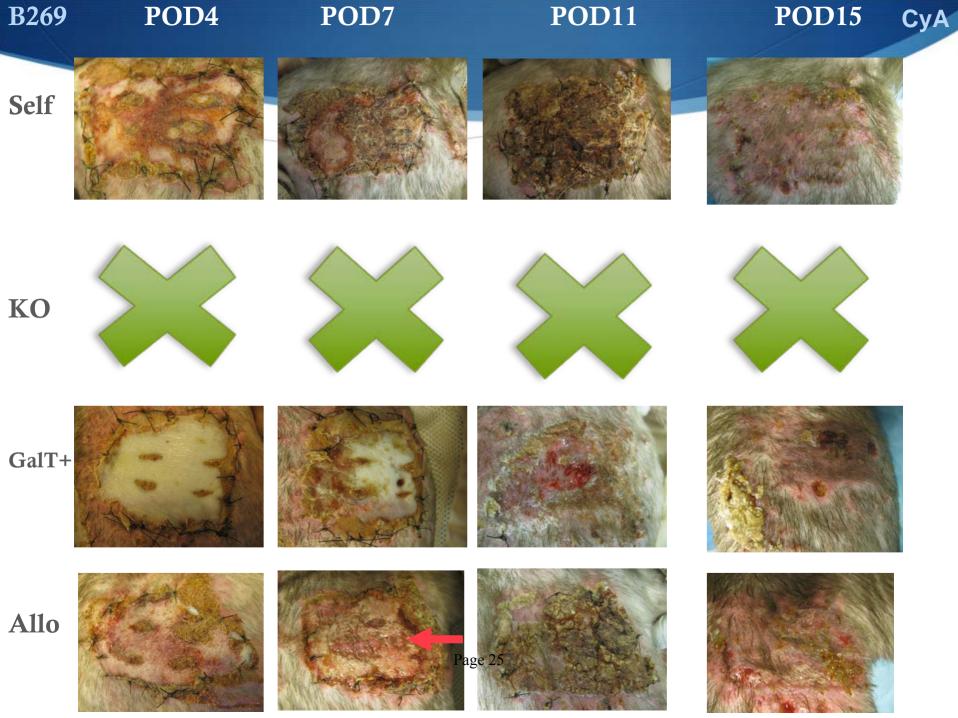
# B267 GalT-KO POD7 (CyA)

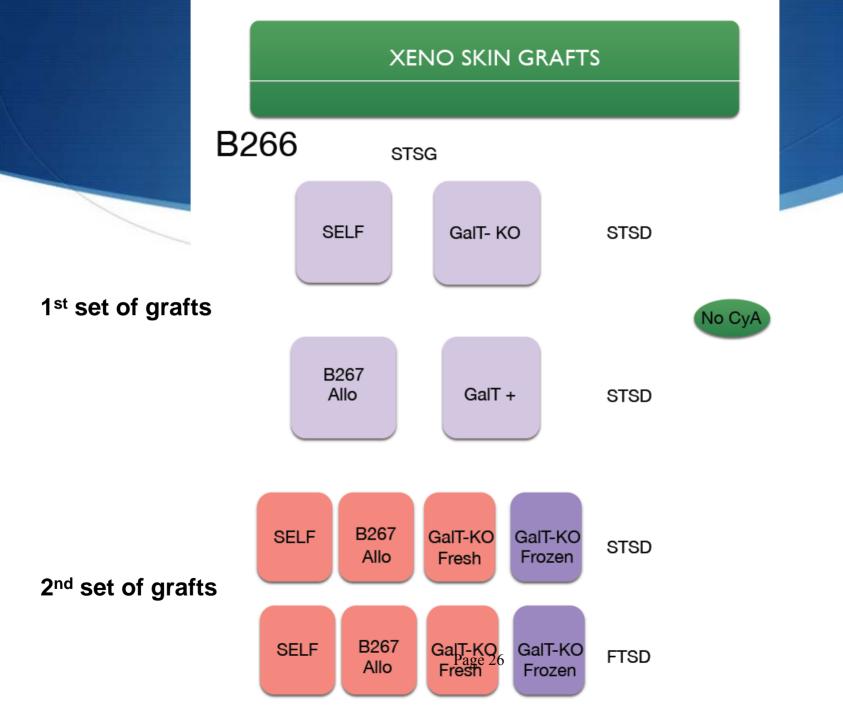


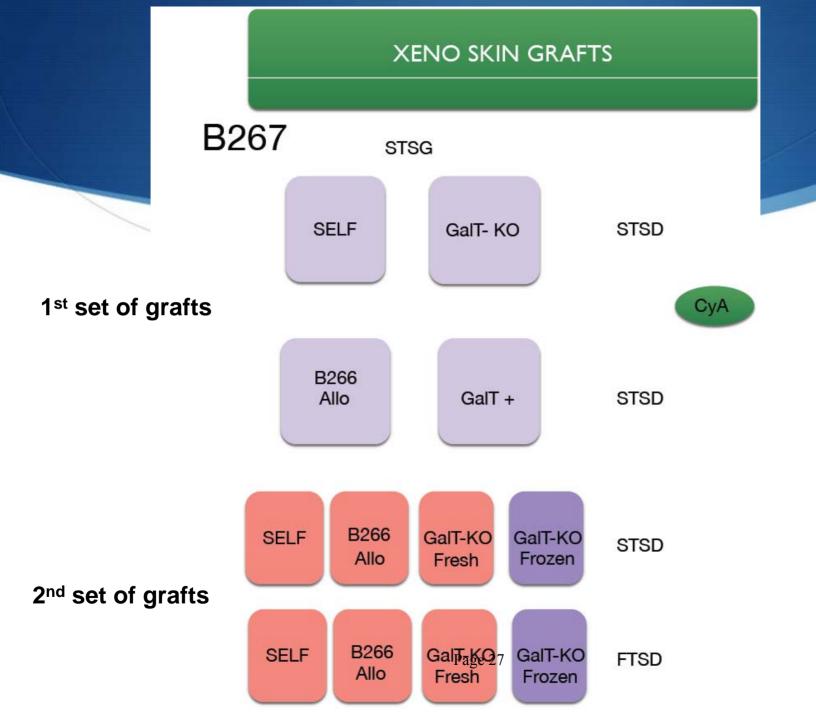
## **XENO SKIN GRAFTS**

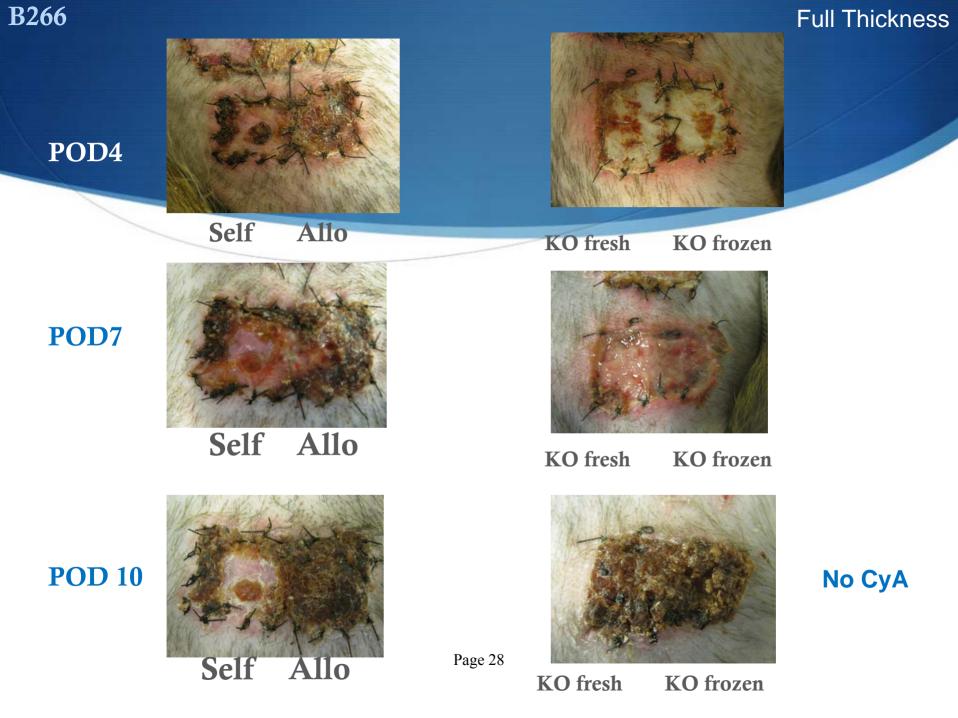












POD4



Allo Self



KO fresh KO frozen

POD7



Allo Self



**POD 10** 



Page 29

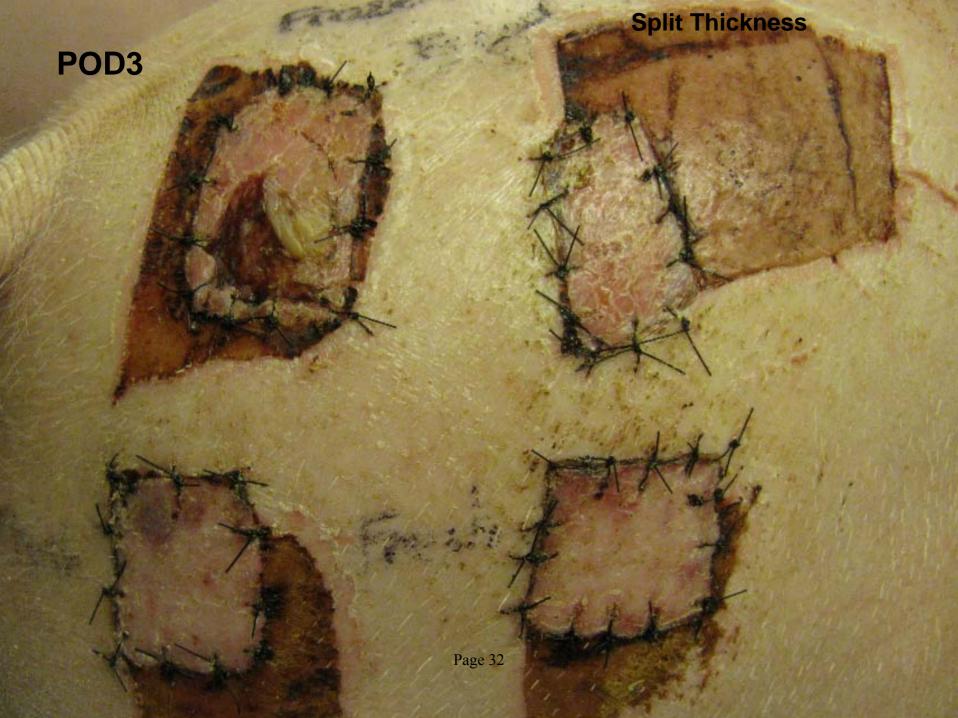


**KO** frozen

CyA

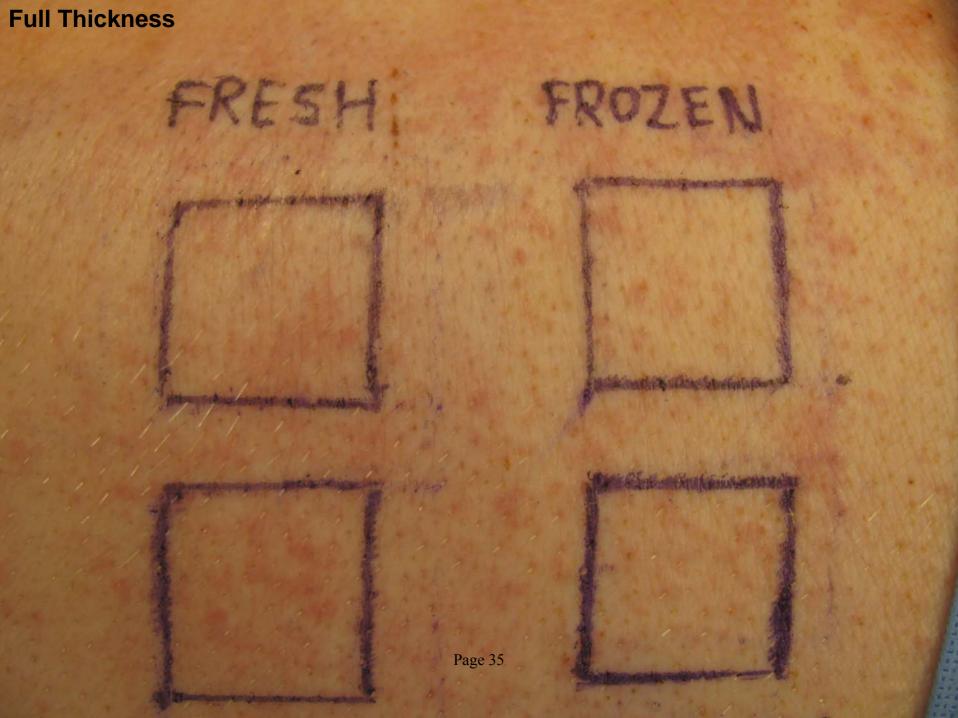


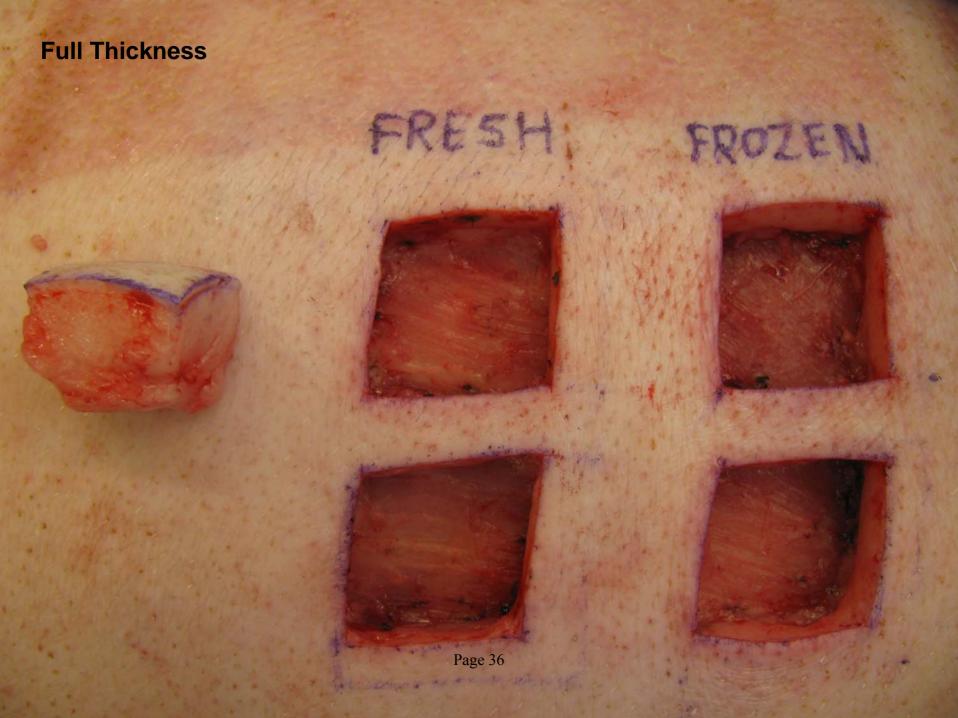


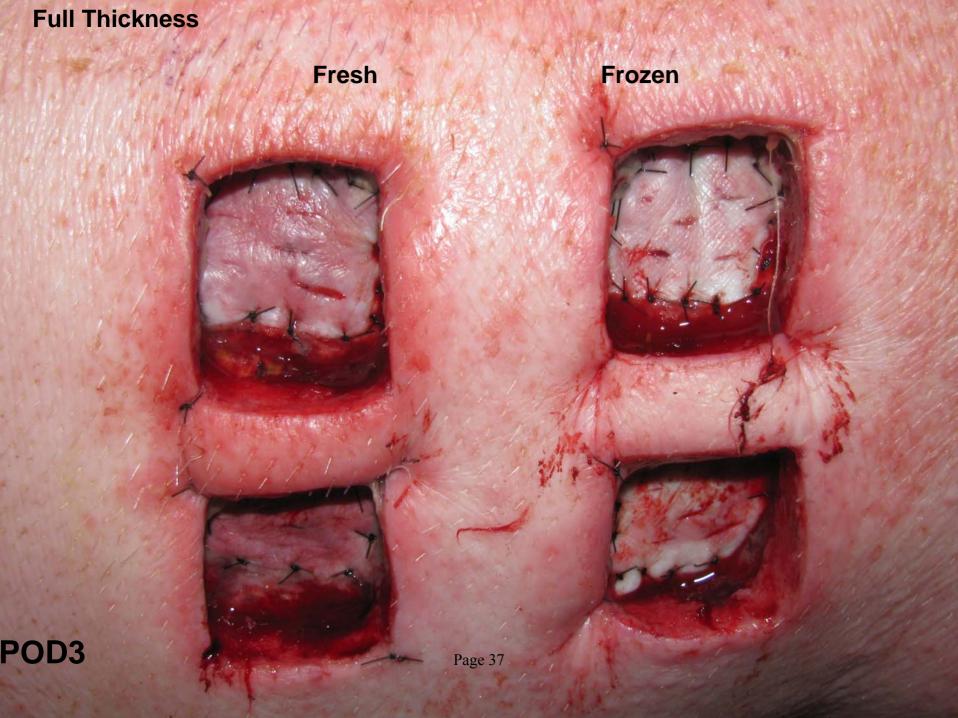


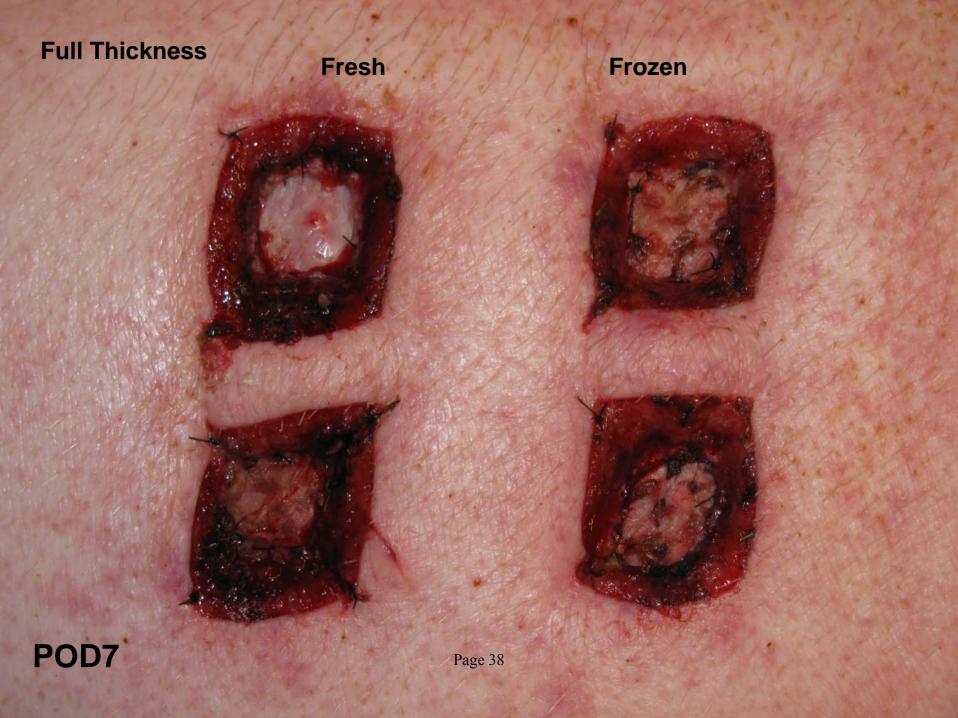






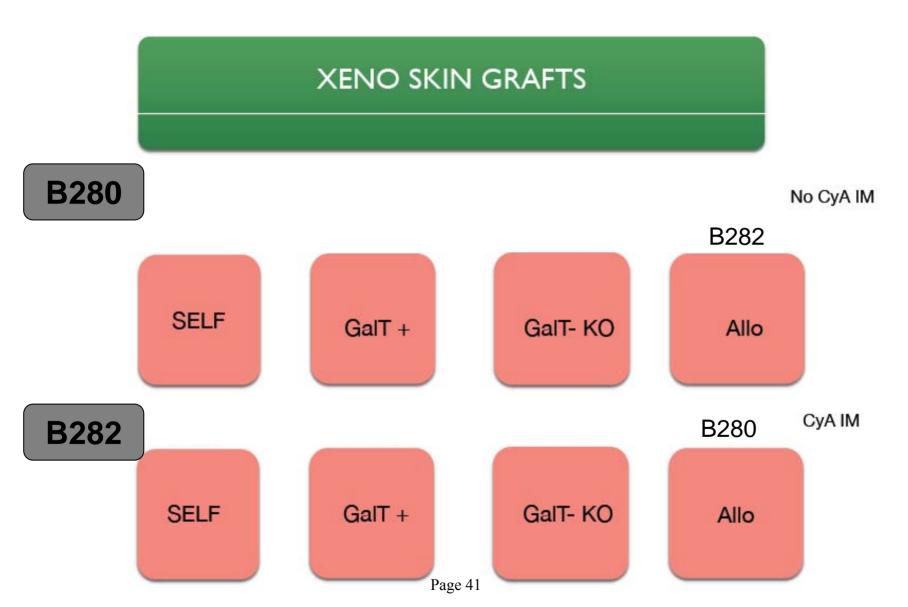




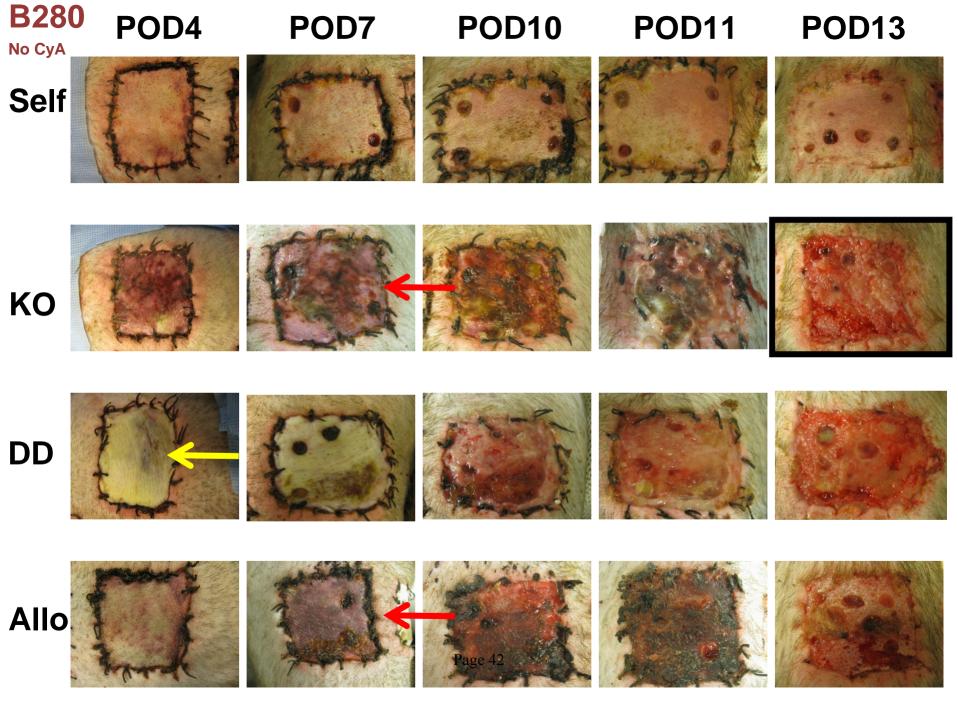


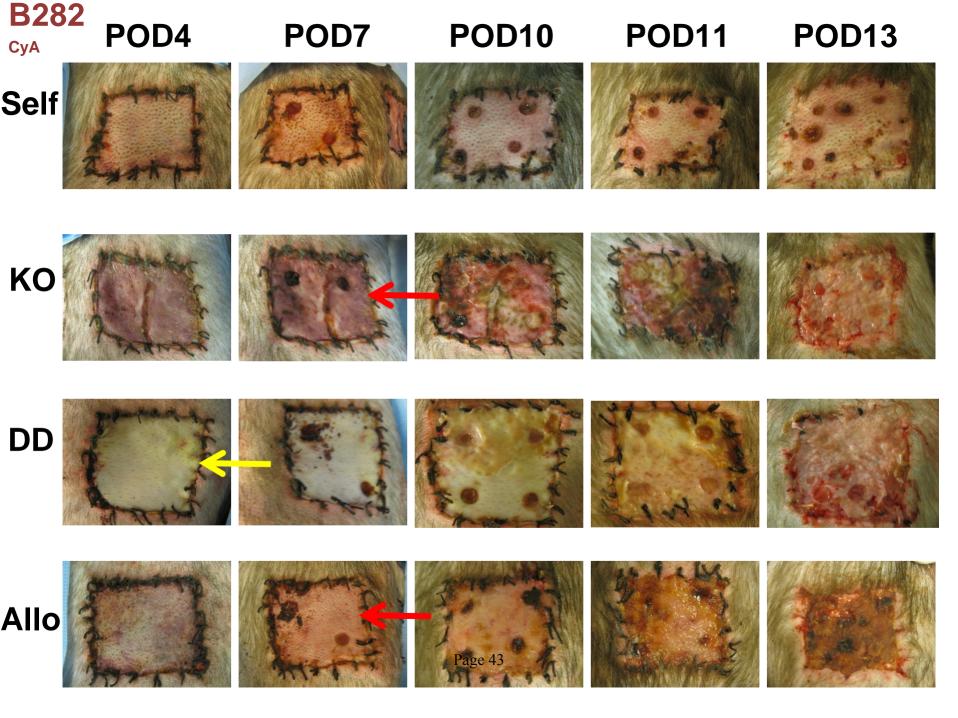






**On Full-Thickness Skin Wounds** 





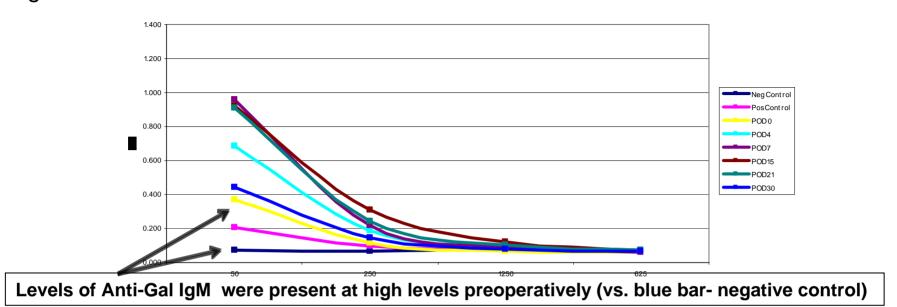
#### **On Full-Thickness Skin Wounds**





Figure 1

#### B266 Anti-Gal IgM ELISA (s/p 1st set of grafts)



B266 Anti-Gal IgG ELISA (s/p 1st set of grafts)

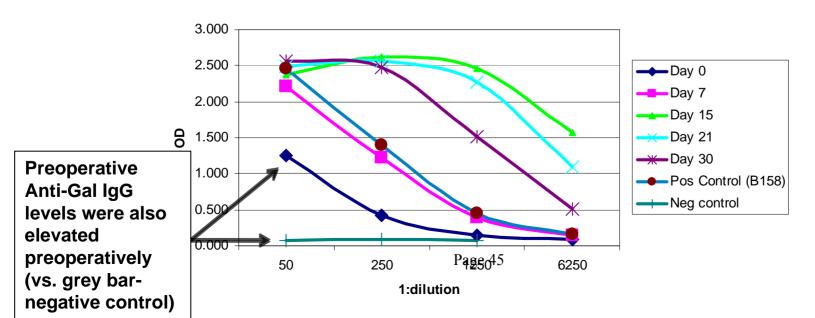
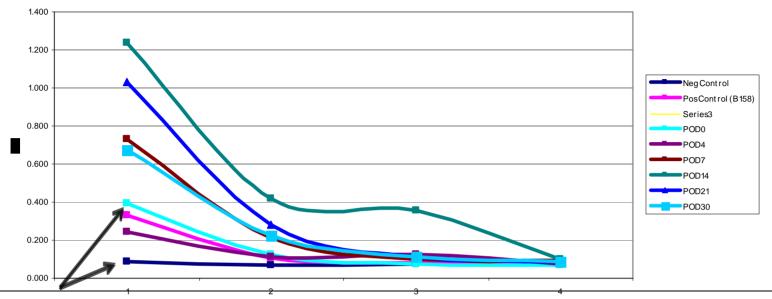


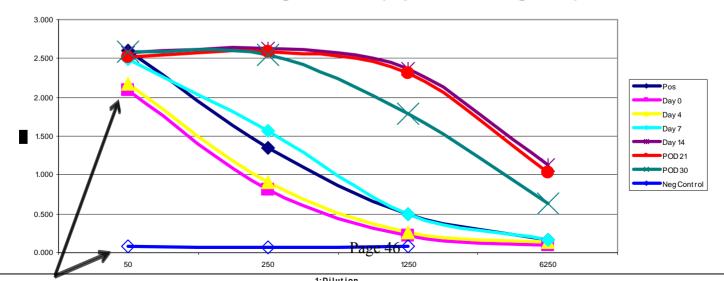
Figure 2

B267 Anti-Gal IgM ELISA (s/p 1st set of grafts)



Levels of Anti-Gal IgM (light blue) were present at high levels preoperatively (vs. blue- negative control)

B267 Anti-Gal IgG ELISA (s/p 1st set of grafts)



Preoperative Anti-Gal IgG levels (purple) were also elevated preoperatively (vs. blue-negative

## Figure 3

# Natural Anti-Gal Ab are present before TX Lack of Anti-non-Gal Ab before TX

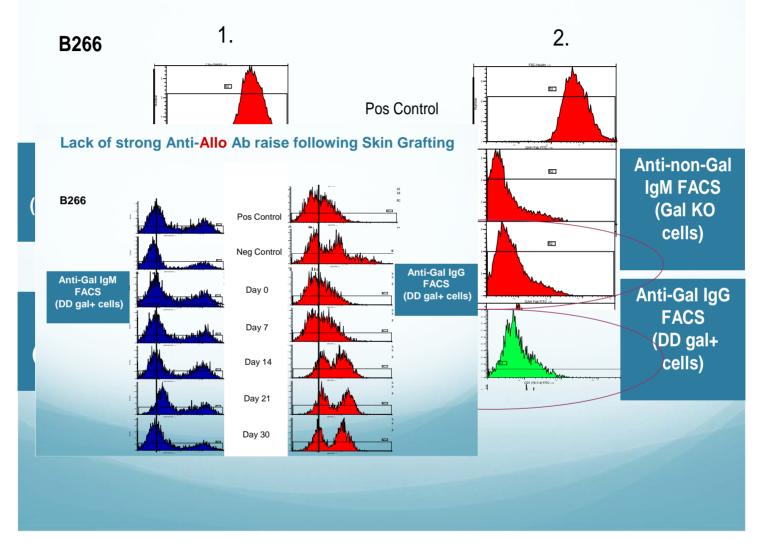
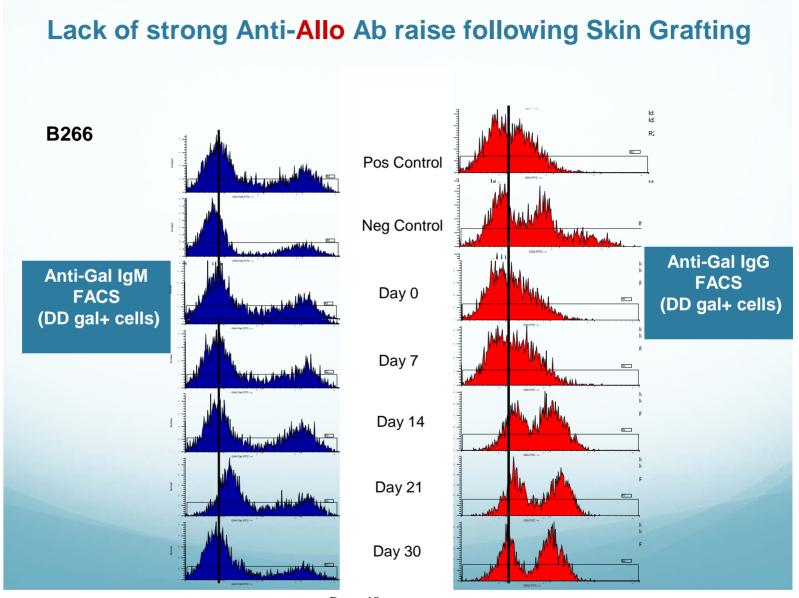


Figure 4



Page 48

Figure 5

## Allo reactivity is greater **pre** skin transplant Xeno reactivity is greater **post** skin transplant

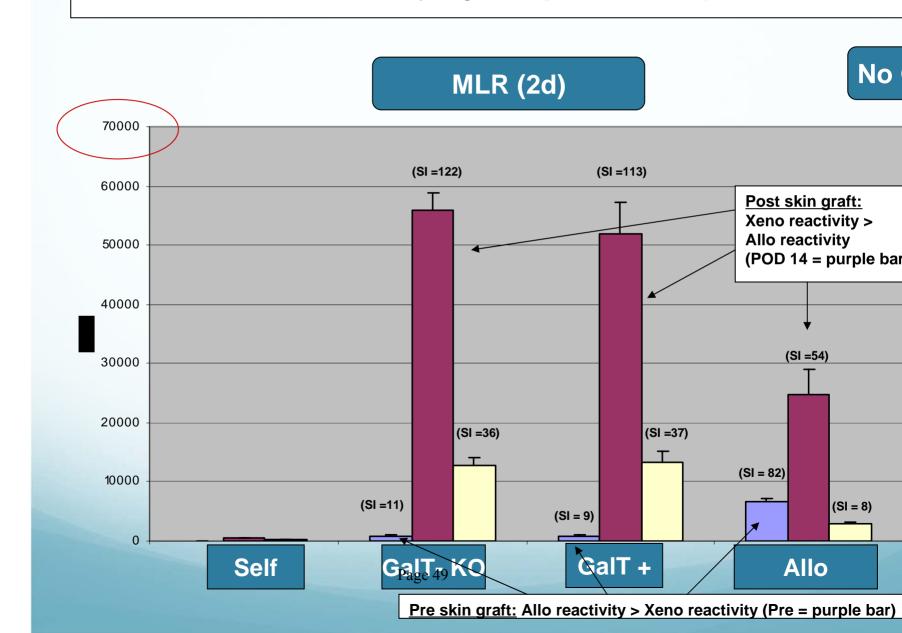
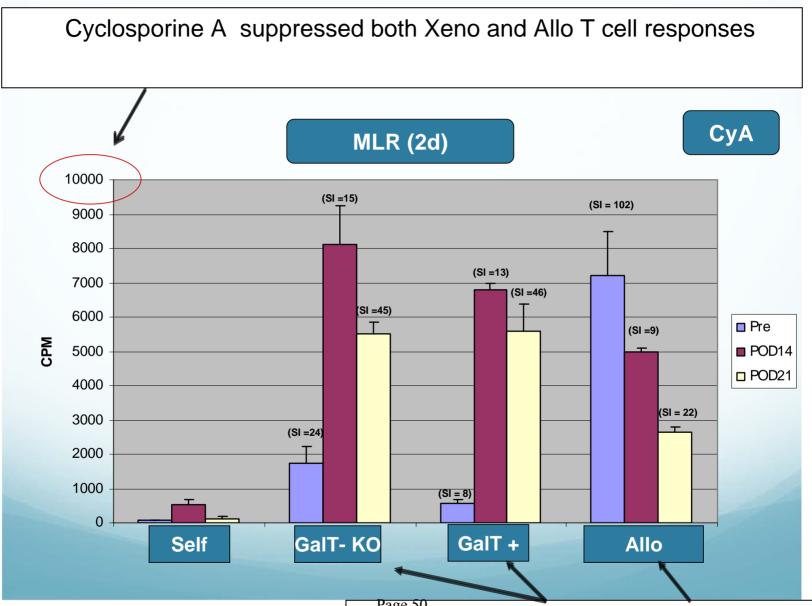


Figure 6



CyA suppressed both Xeno and Allo responses (as shown by lower cpm (counts per minutes) (vs. Figure 5)

Figure 7

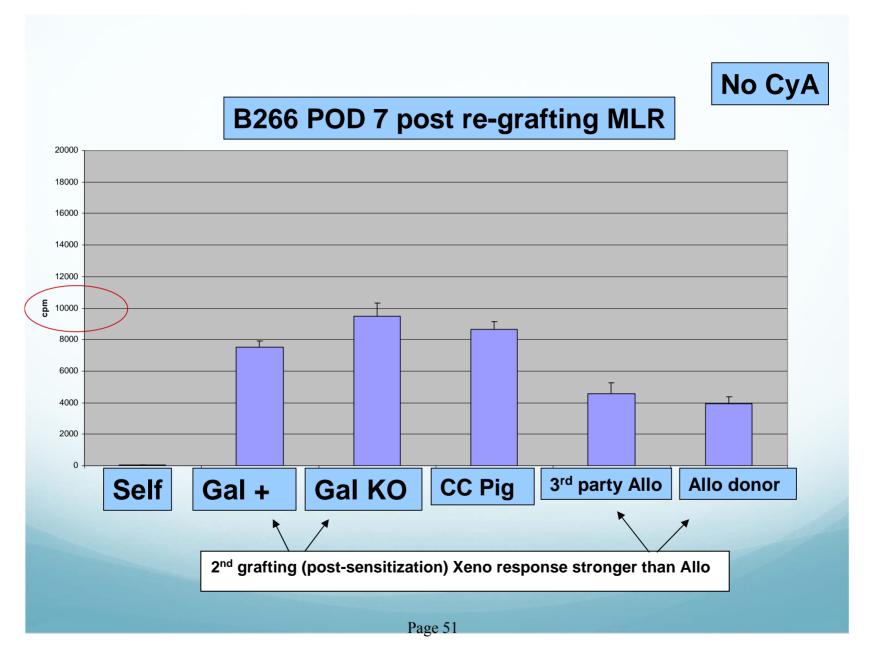


Figure 8

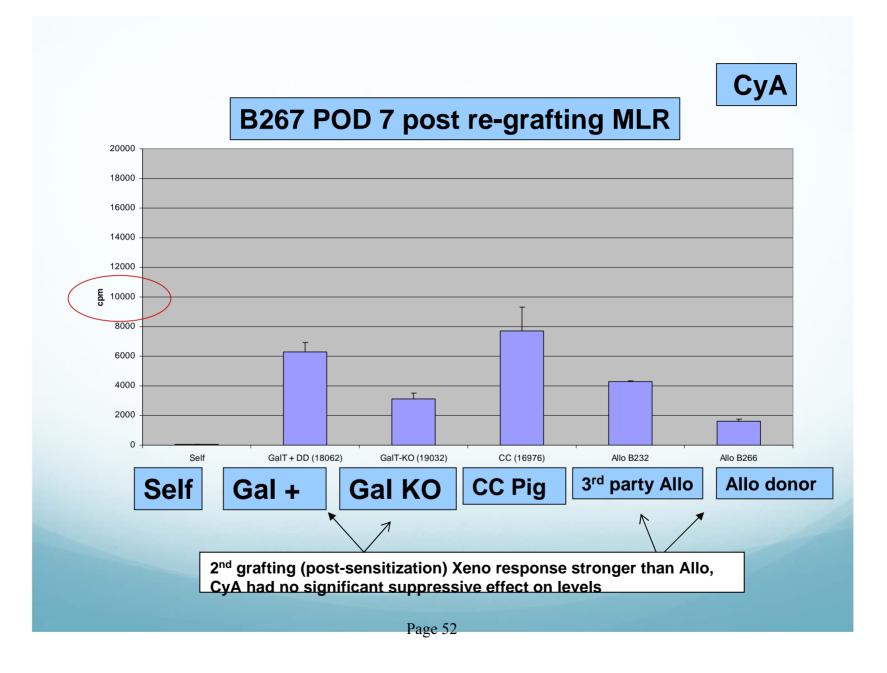


Figure 1

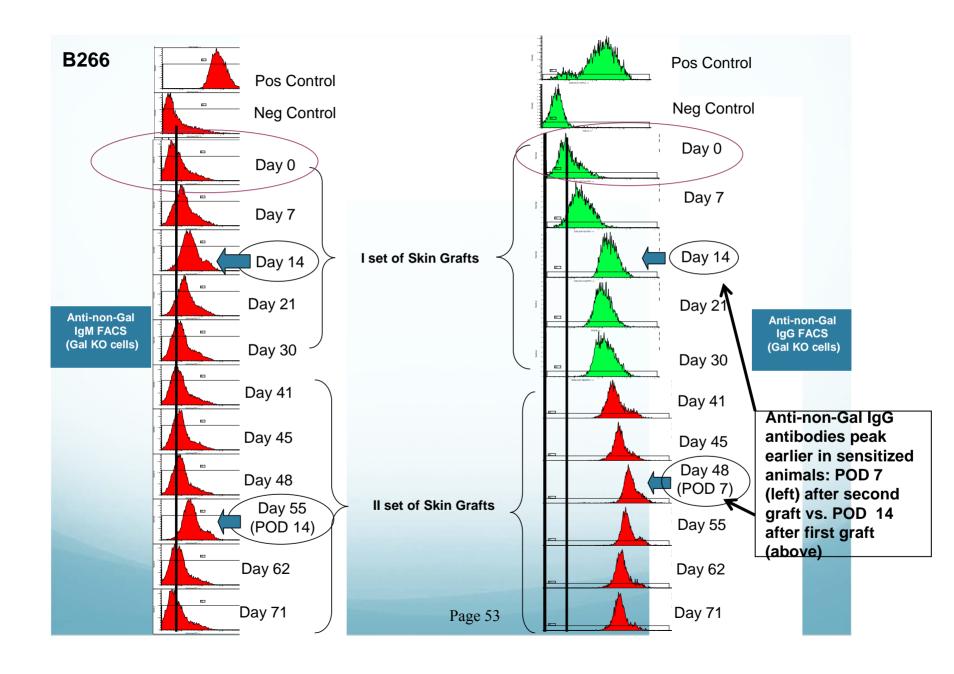


Figure 1

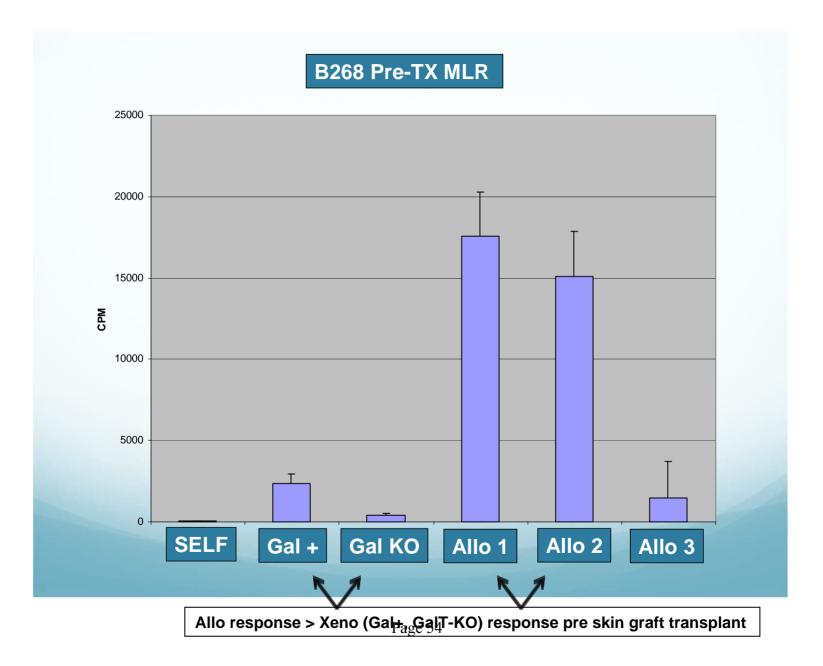
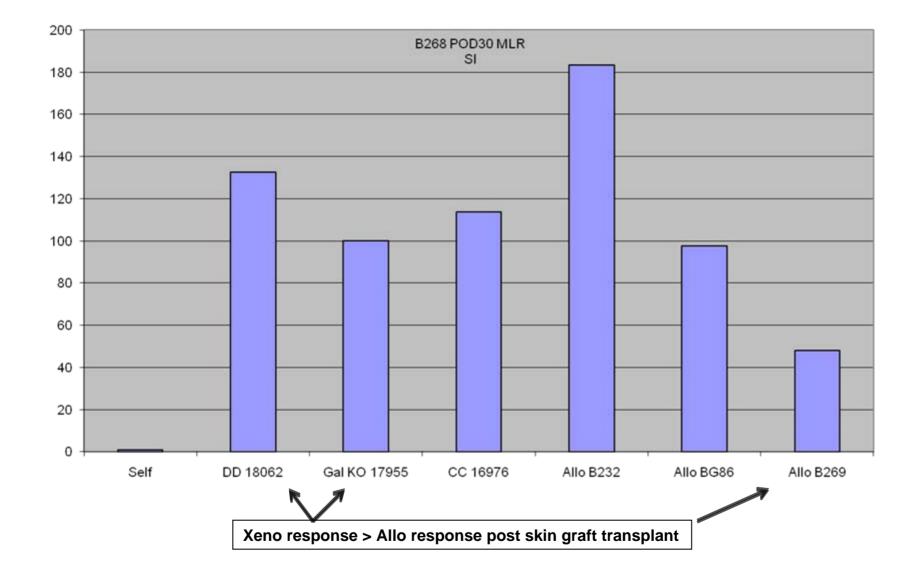
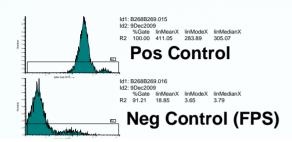
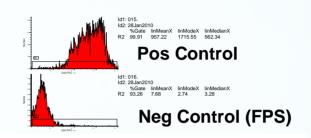


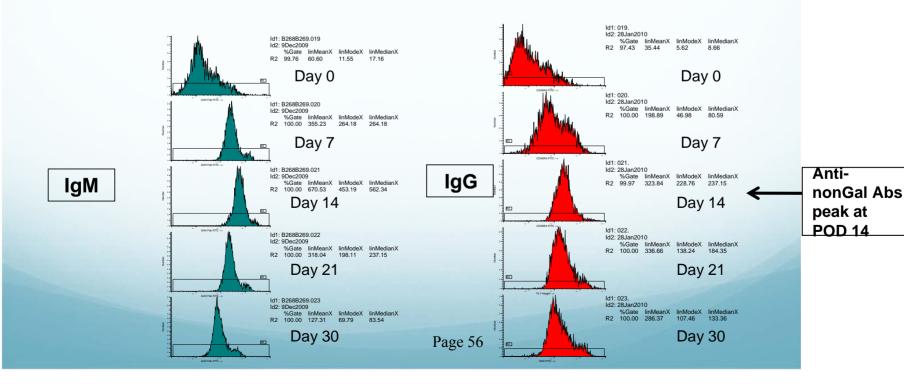
Figure 2

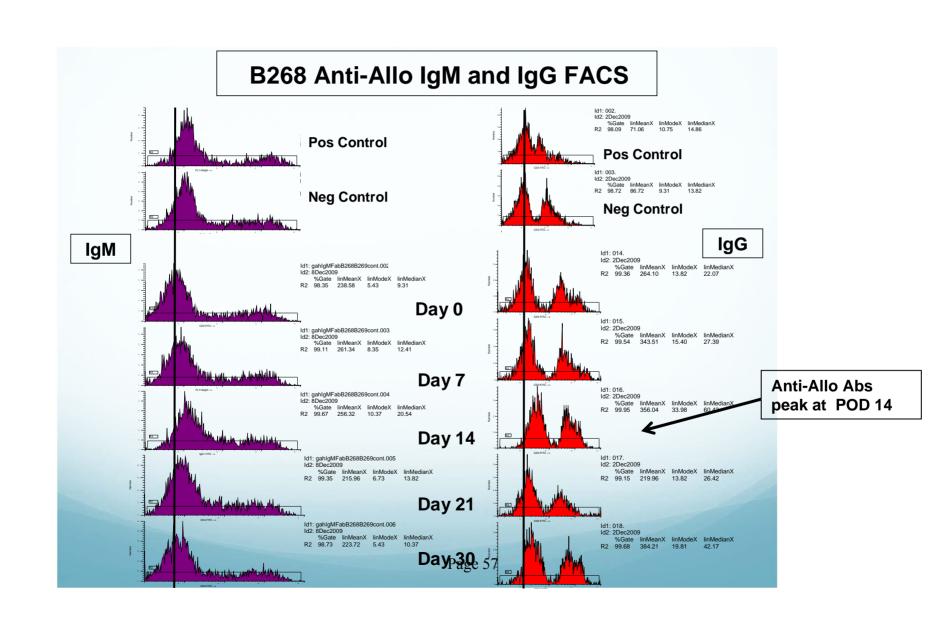


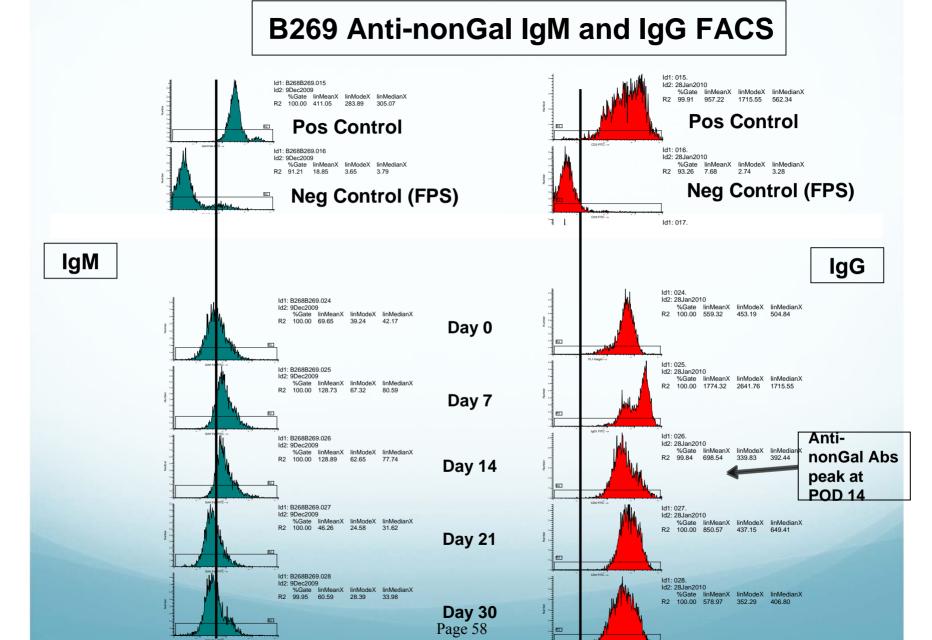
## **B268 Anti-nonGal IgM and IgG FACS**







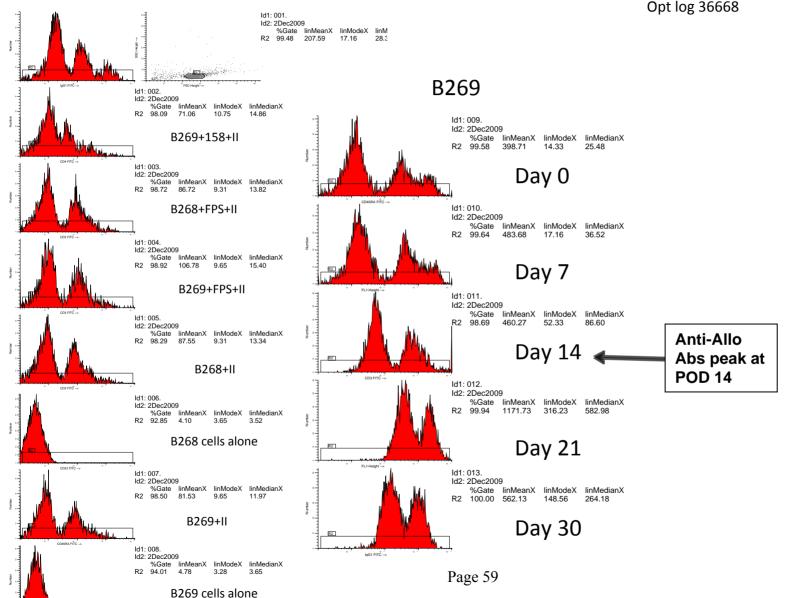




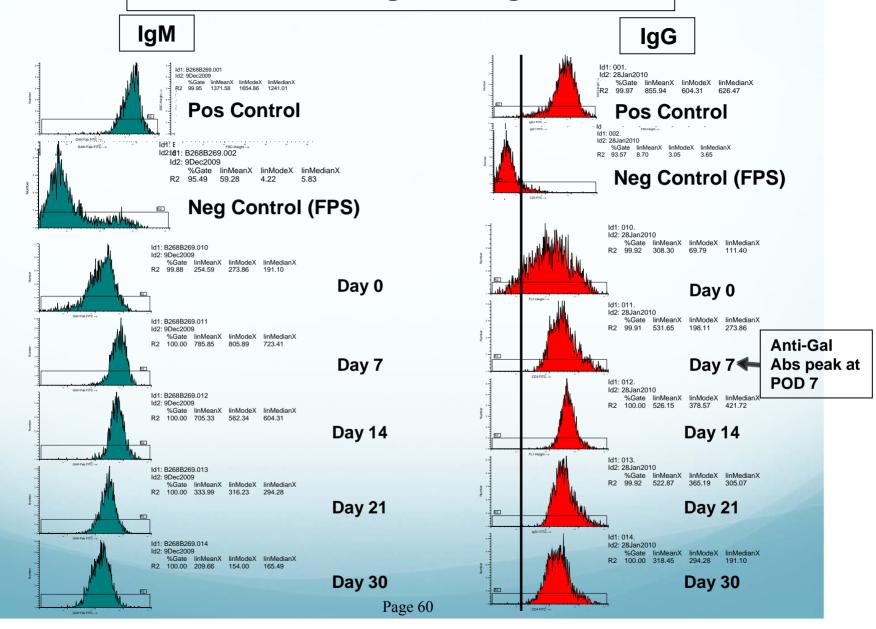
B268+B158+II

#### Anti-Allo IgG Fab Facs

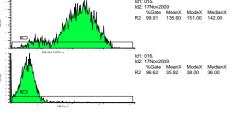
12/01/2009 Opt log 36668



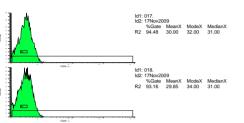
## **B269 Anti-Gal IgM and IgG FACS**



# Supplementary FACS and MLR Data



# Does Re-grafting Accelerate Humoral Response?

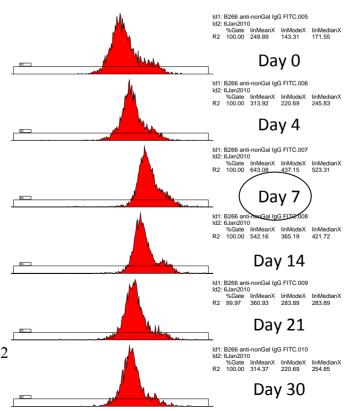


#### **Anti-nonGal IgG FACS**

#### I set of Skin Grafts

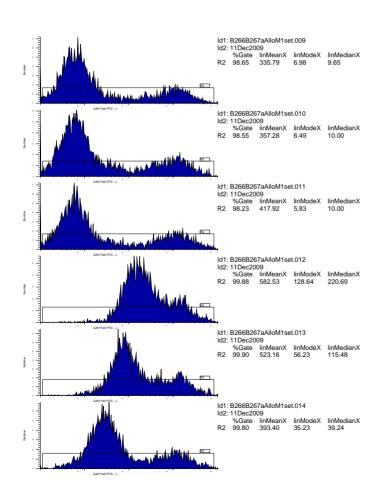
#### ld1: 019. Id2: 17Nov2009 %Gate MeanX ModeX MedianX R2 98.97 52.76 44.00 49.00 ld1: 020. ld2: 17Nov2009 %Gate MeanX ModeX MedianX R2 100.00 79.68 67.00 79.00 **B266** CD3 (2-6-15) FITC -> %Gate MeanX ModeX MedianX **Day 14** R2 100.00 144.62 145.00 144.00 ld1: 022. ld2: 17Nov2009 %Gate Meanx Mouex 130.00 130.00 130.00 Day 21 Day 30 Page 62 ld2: 17Nov2009 %Gate MeanX ModeX MedianX R2 100.00 134.91 119.00 134.00

#### II set of Skin Grafts

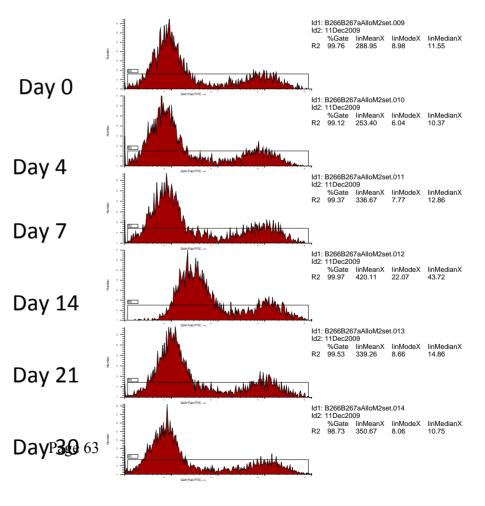


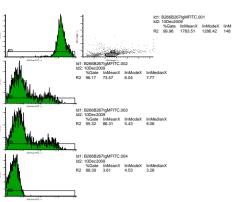
#### **B267 Anti-Allo IgM Facs**

#### I set of skin grafts



#### II set of skin grafts





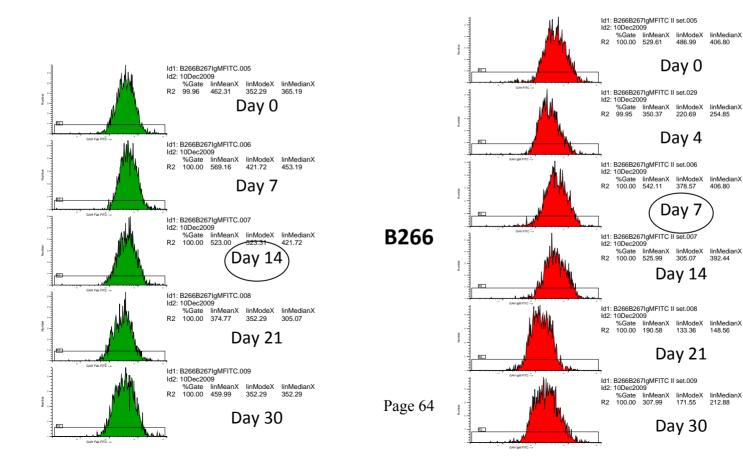
**B266** 

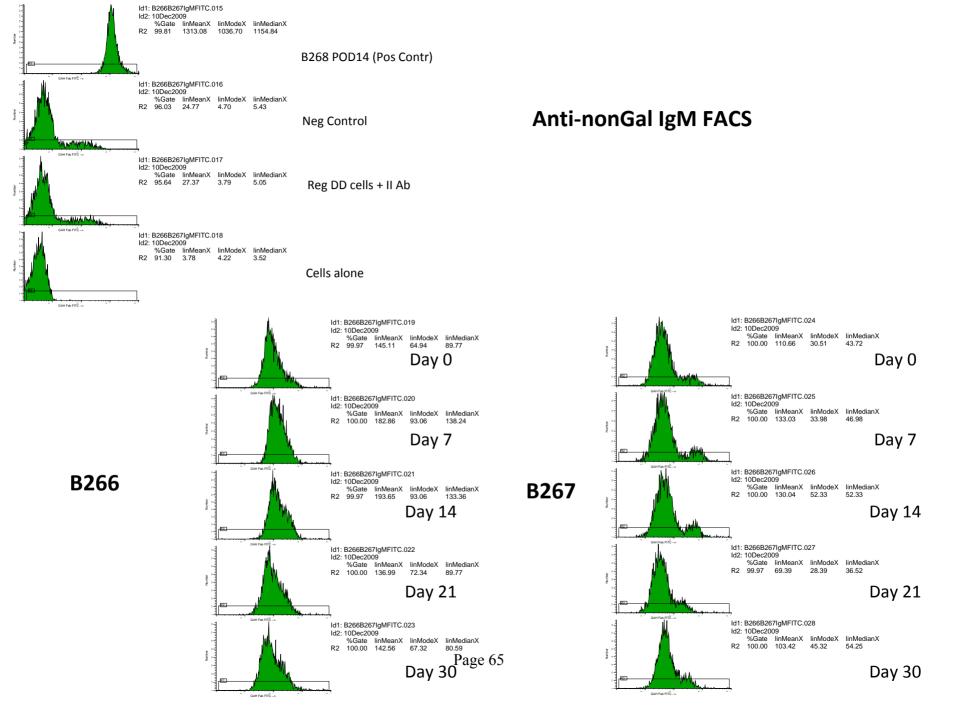
#### Does re-grafting accelerate humoral response?

#### **Anti-Gal IgM FACS**

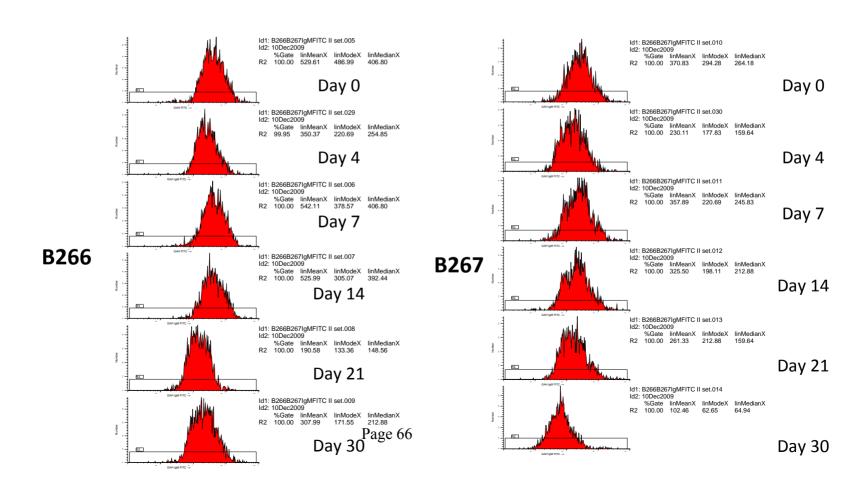
#### I set of Skin Grafts

#### II set of Skin Grafts

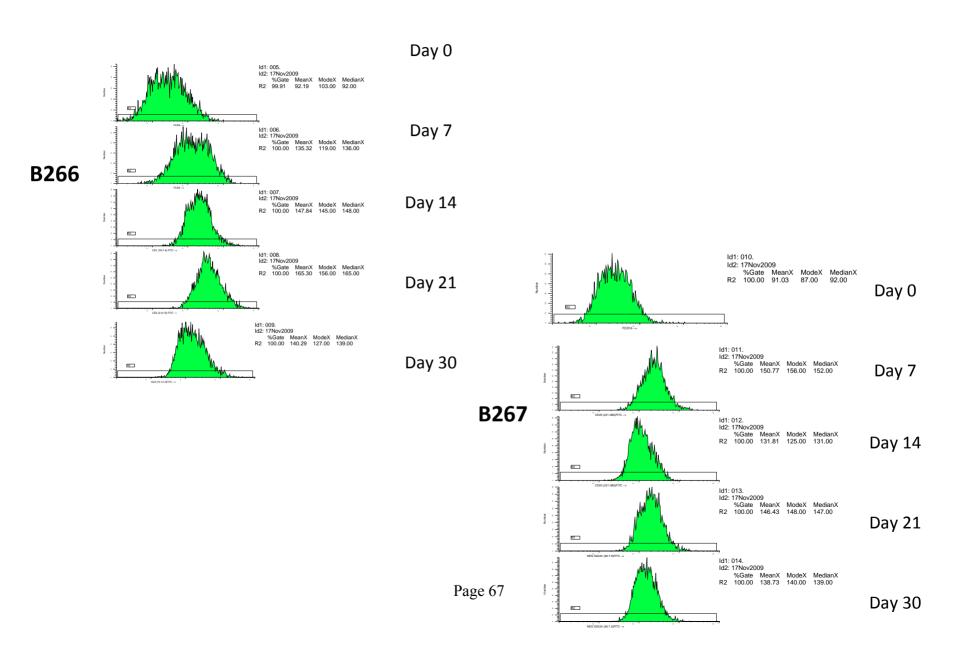


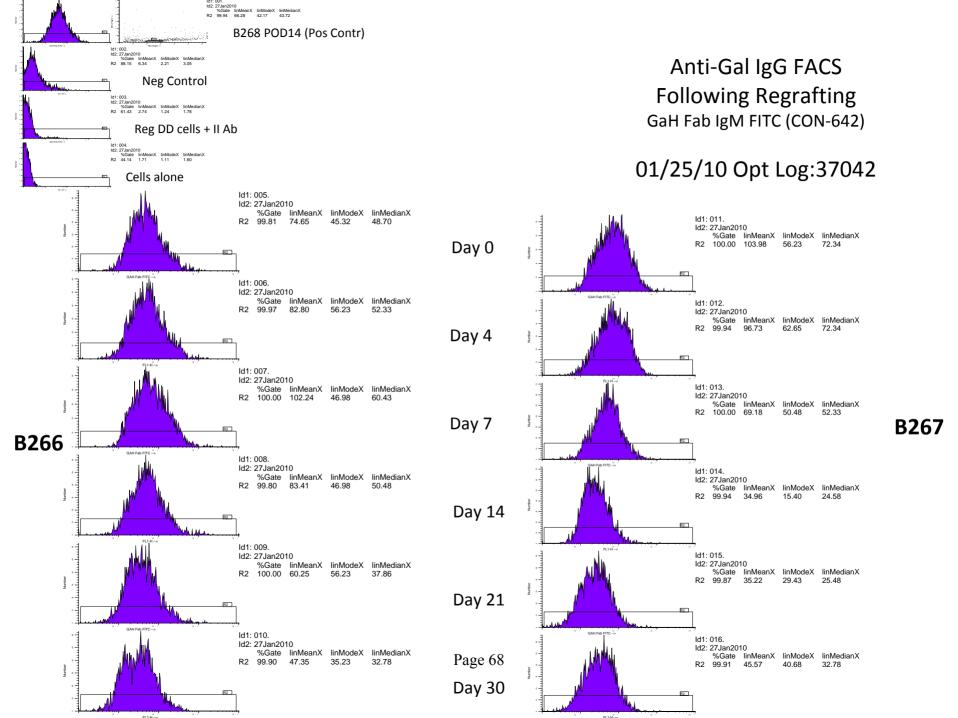


# Anti-Gal IgM FACS Following Regrafting

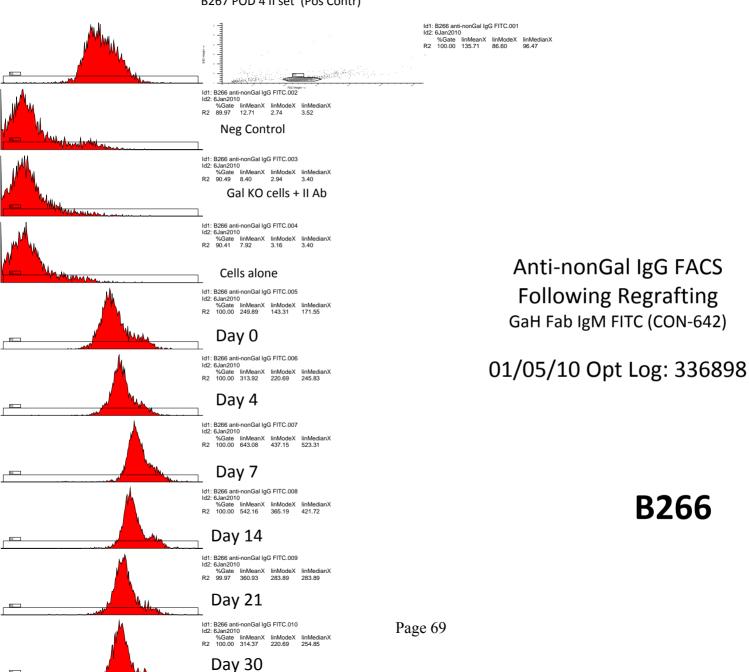


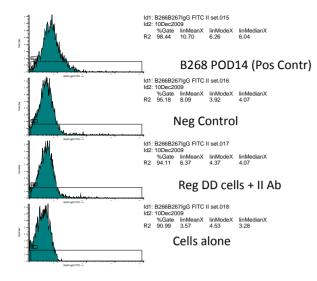
#### **Anti-Gal IgG FACS**





#### B267 POD 4 II set (Pos Contr)

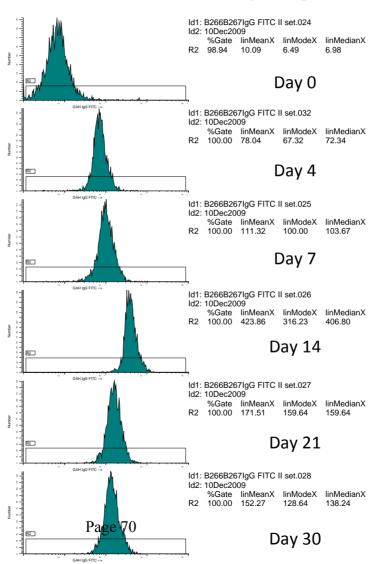


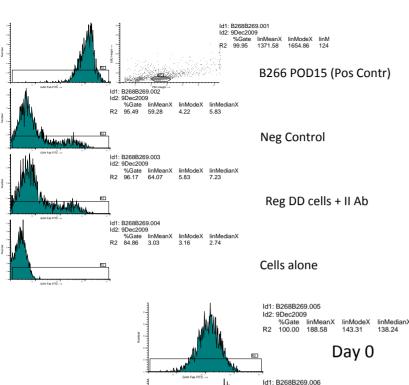


**B267** 

#### Anti-nonGal IgG FACS Following Regrafting GaH Fab IgM FITC (CON-642)

#### 12/10/09 Opt Log: 36740





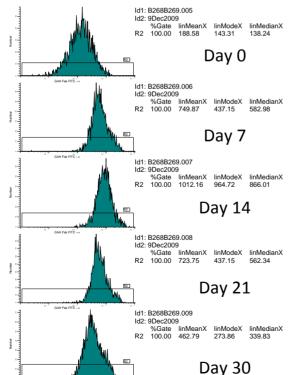
**B268** 

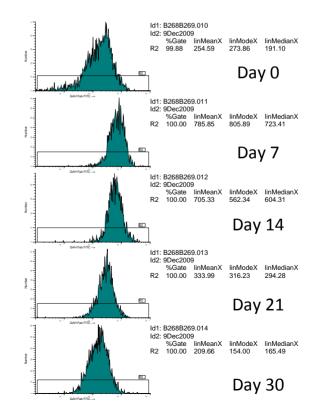


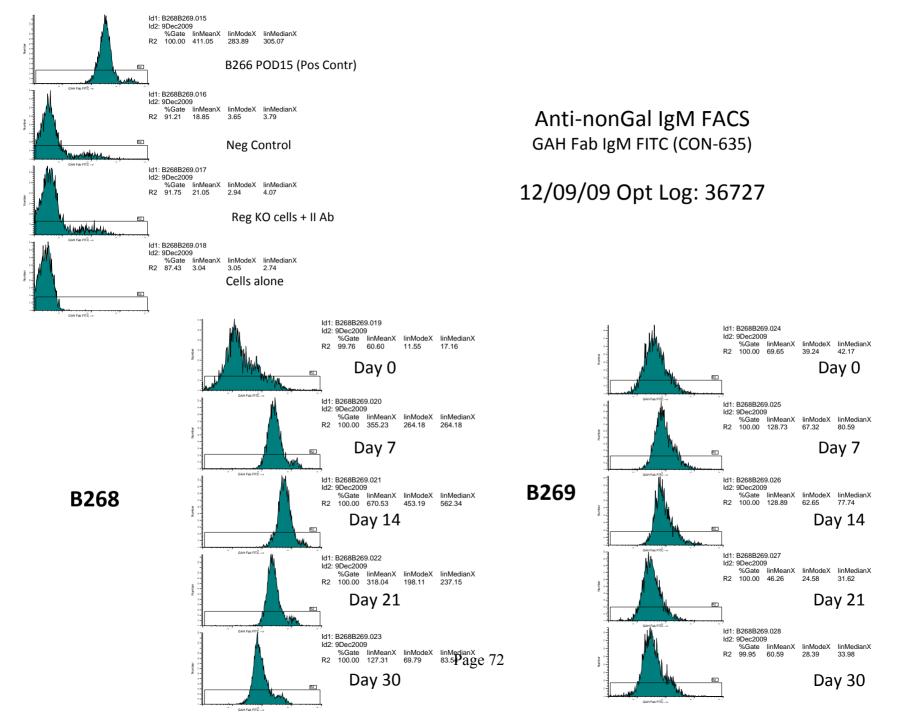
12/09/09 Opt Log: 36727

**B269** 

Page 71

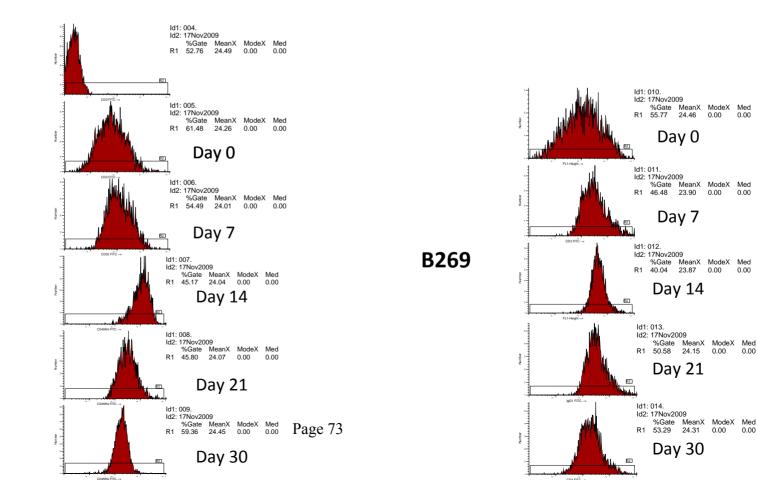






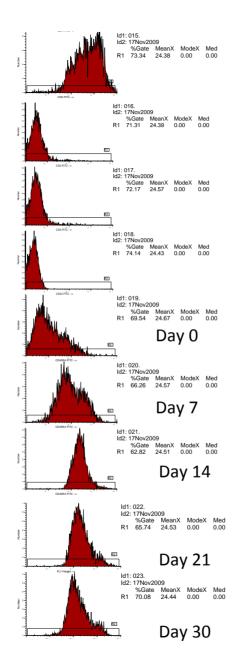
# **Anti-Gal IgG FACS**

**B268** 

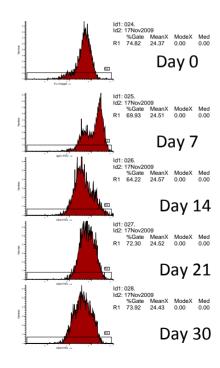


Day 0

Day 7



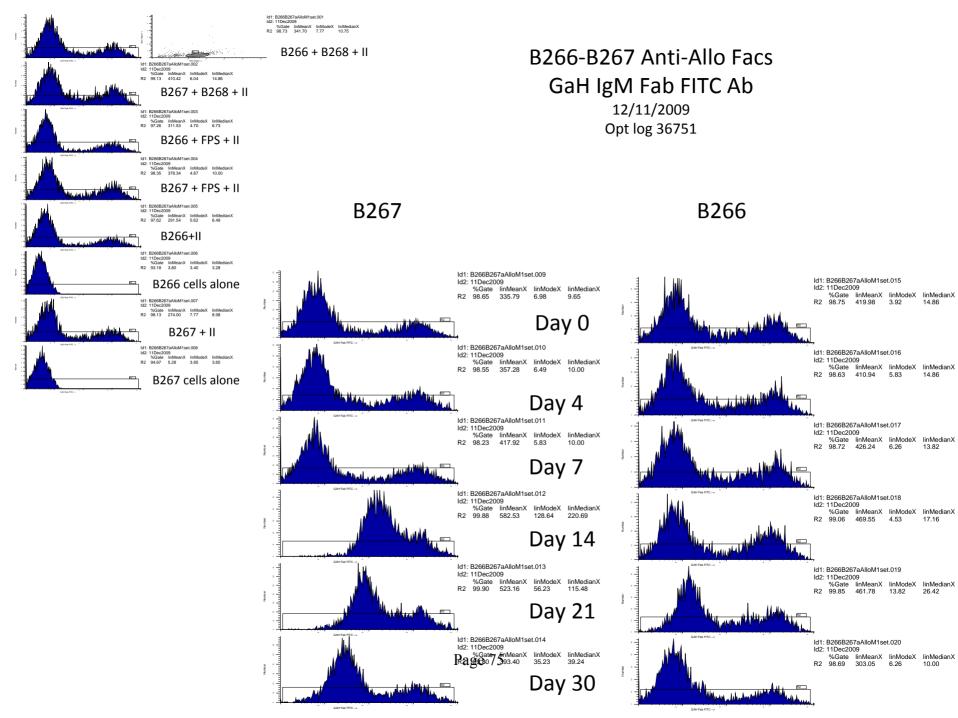
# **Anti-nonGal IgG**

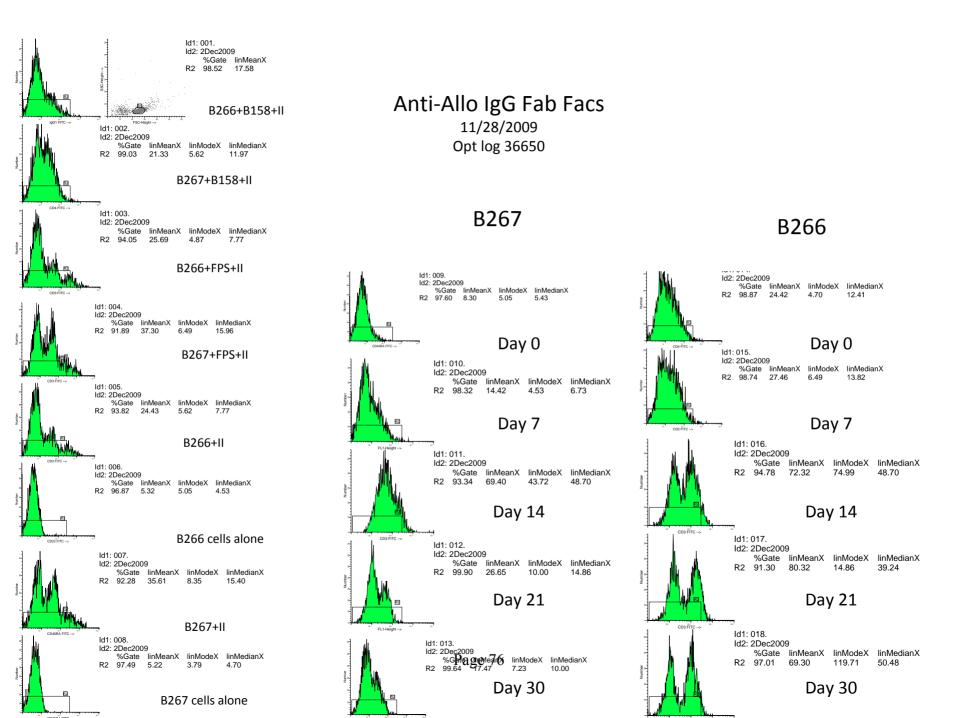


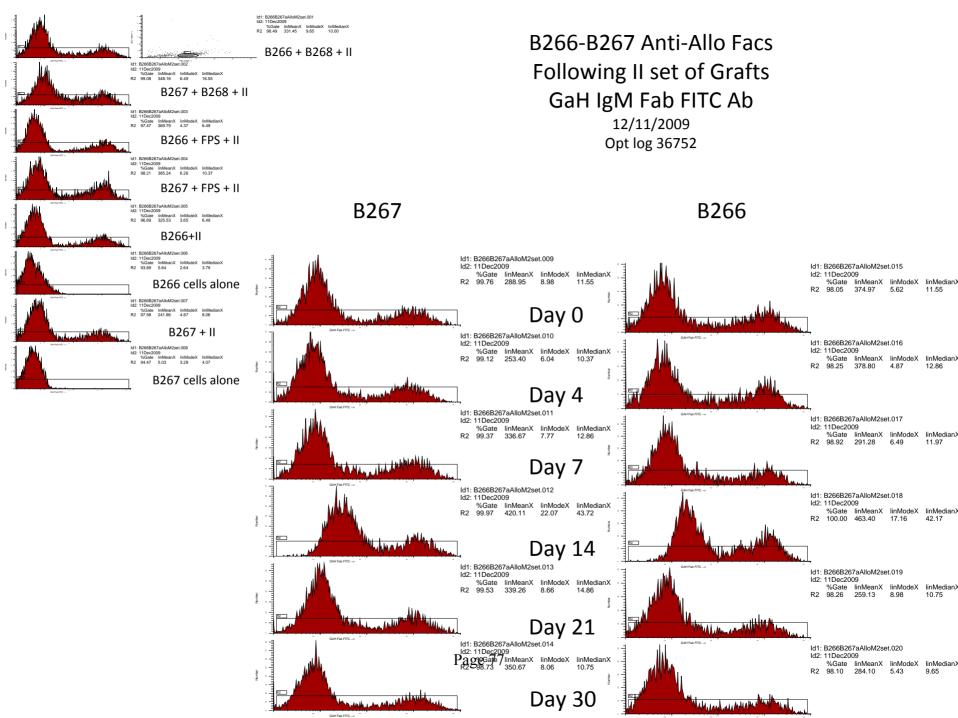
**B269** 

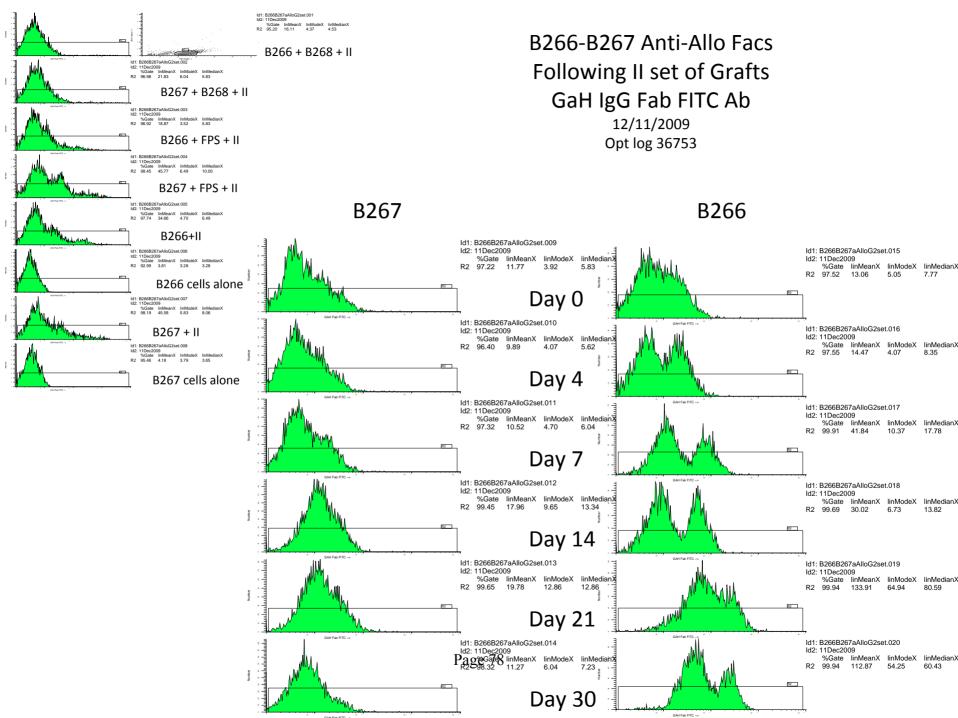
B268

Page 74

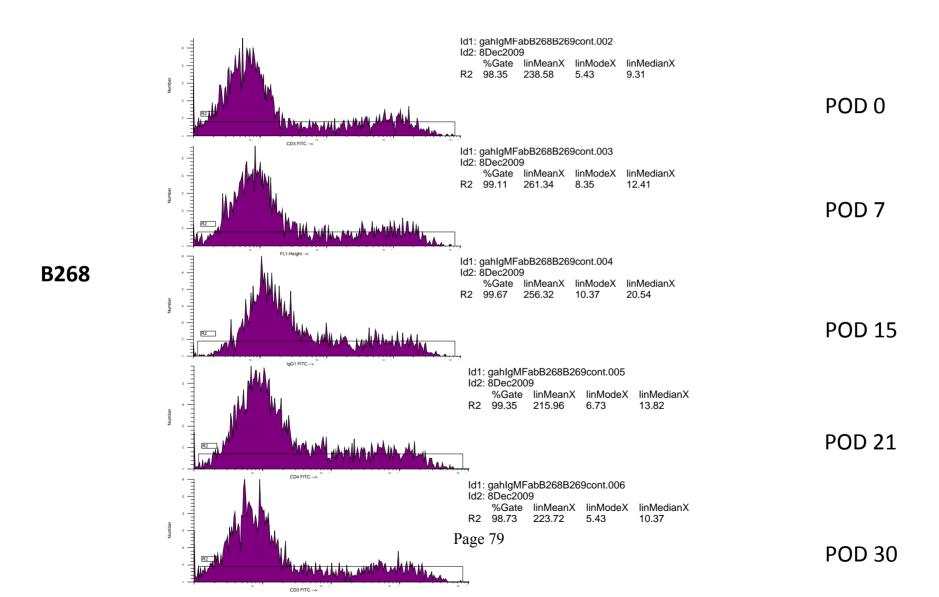




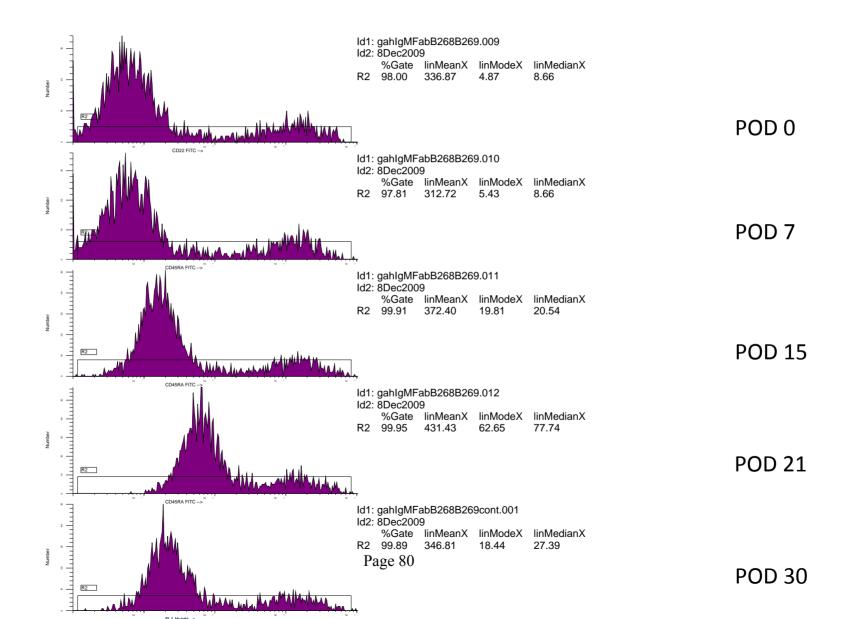




## **Anti-Allo IgM Facs**

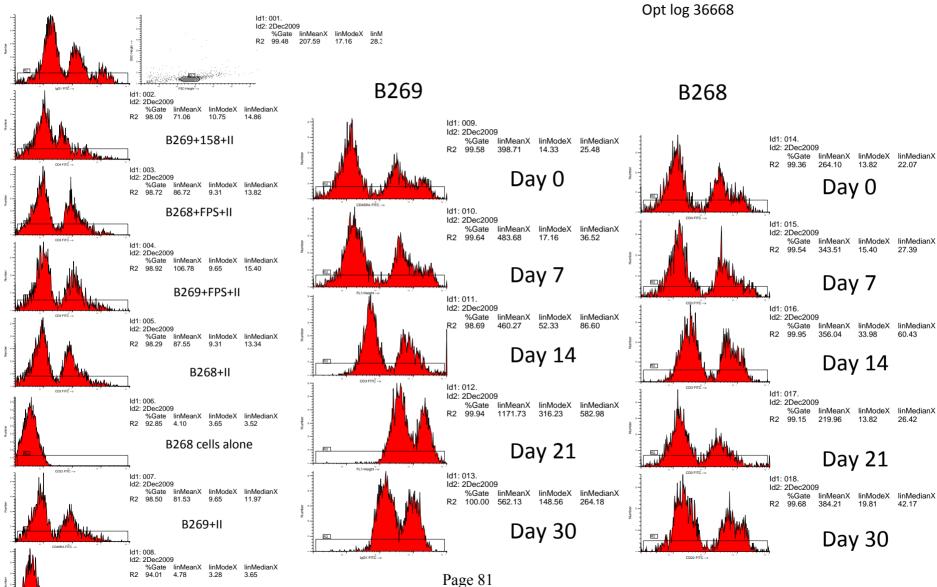


# Anti-Allo Facs using GaH IgM Fab FITC 12/08/2009 Opt log: 36722



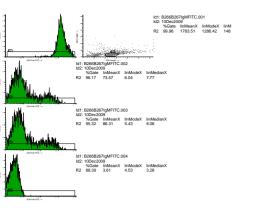
### Anti-Allo IgG Fab Facs

12/01/2009



B268+B158+II

B269 cells alone



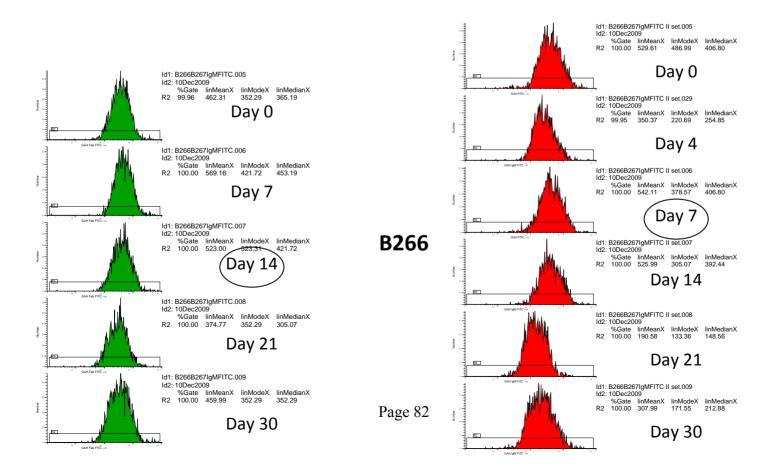
**B266** 

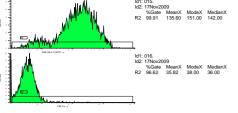
# Does Re-grafting Accelerate Humoral Response?

### **Anti-Gal IgM FACS**

### I set of Skin Grafts

### II set of Skin Grafts





# Does Re-grafting Accelerate Humoral Response?

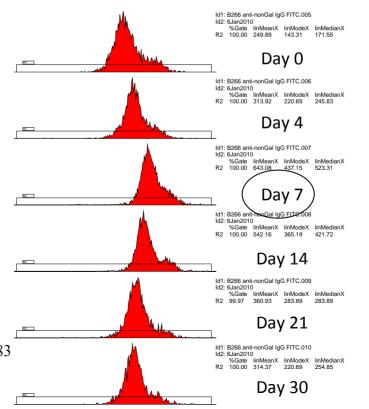


### **Anti-nonGal IgG FACS**

### I set of Skin Grafts

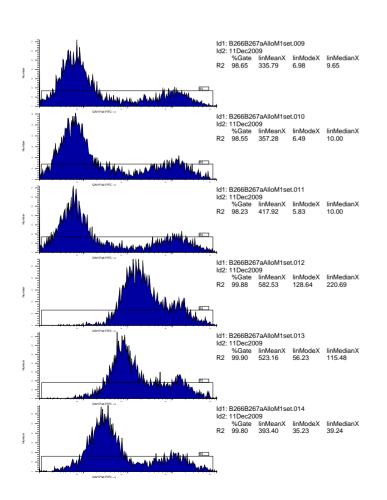
### ld1: 019. Id2: 17Nov2009 %Gate MeanX ModeX MedianX R2 98.97 52.76 44.00 49.00 ld1: 020. ld2: 17Nov2009 %Gate MeanX ModeX MedianX R2 100.00 79.68 67.00 79.00 **B266** CD3 (2-6-15) FITC -> %Gate MeanX ModeX MedianX **Day 14** R2 100.00 144.62 145.00 144.00 ld1: 022. ld2: 17Nov2009 %Gate Meanx Mouex 130.00 130.00 130.00 Day 21 Day 30 Page 83 ld2: 17Nov2009 %Gate MeanX ModeX MedianX R2 100.00 134.91 119.00 134.00

### II set of Skin Grafts

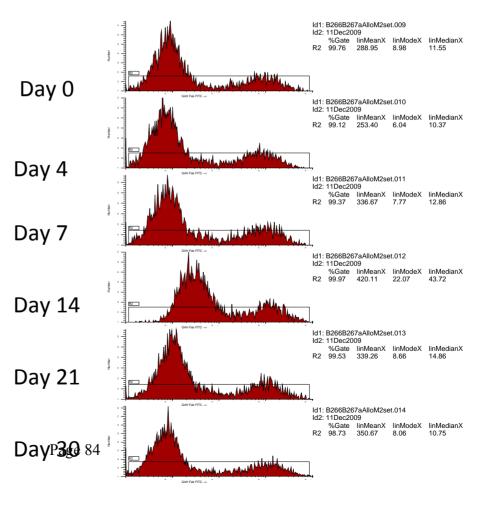


### **B267 Anti-Allo IgM Facs**

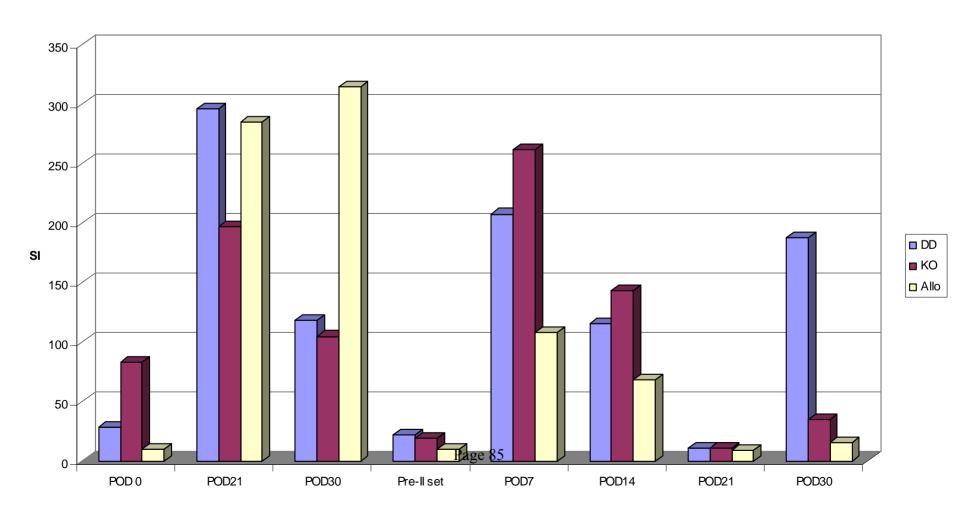
### I set of skin grafts



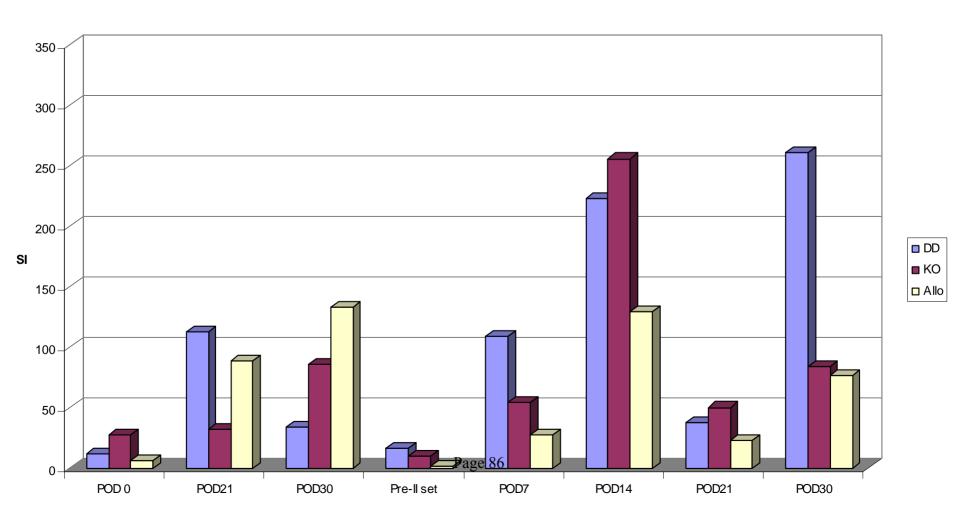
### II set of skin grafts



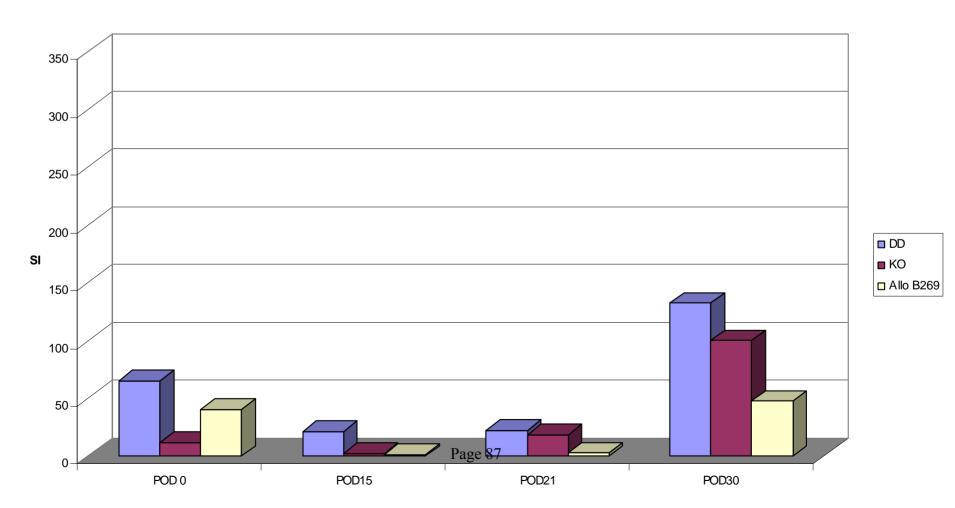
## **B266 MLRs**



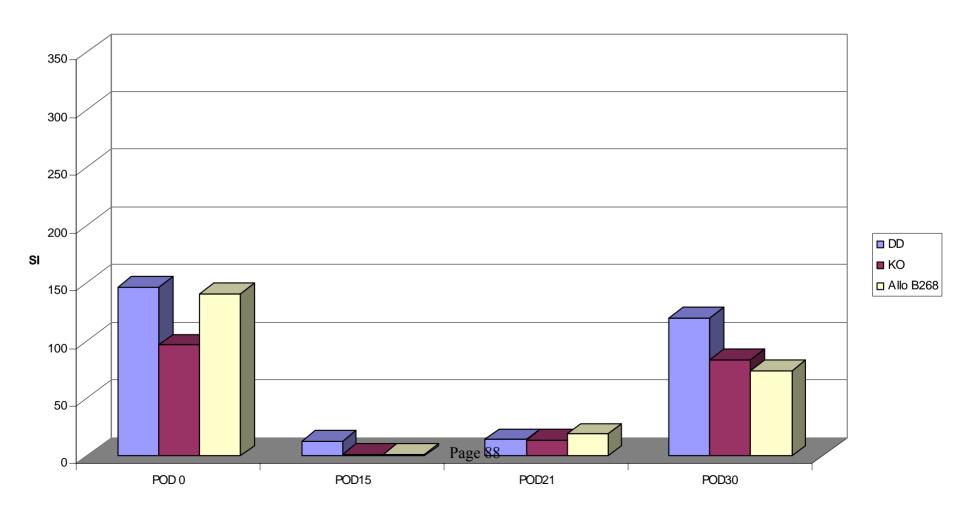
# **B267 MLRs**



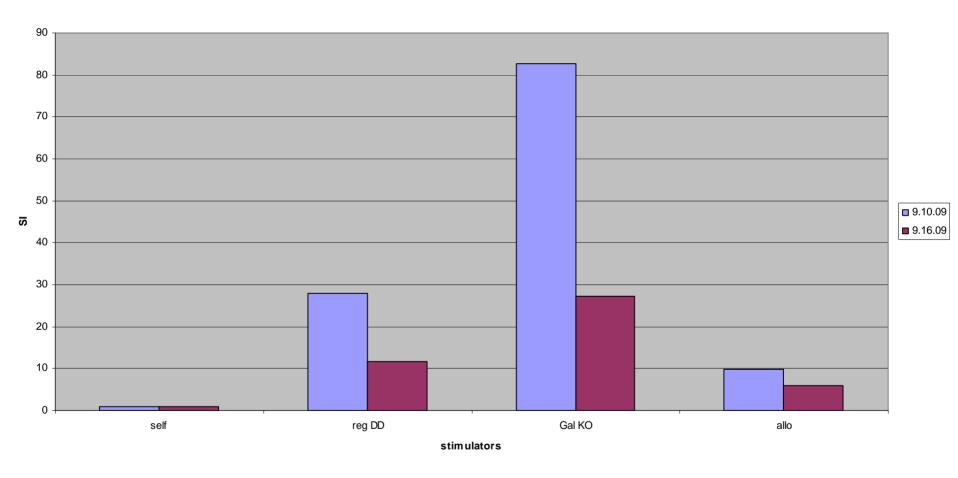
## B268 MLRs



# **B269 MLRs**

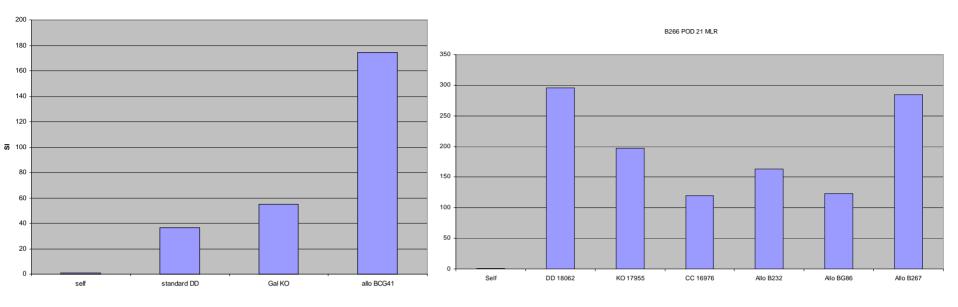


### Pre-Transplant MLR (B266)

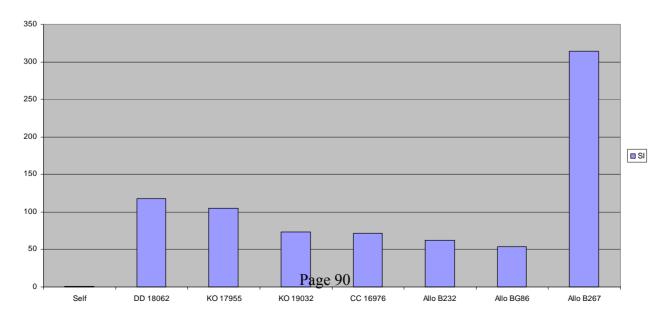


# B266 MLRs (Self, Allo, GalT +, GalT-KO)

#### Pre-MLR Baboon (B266)

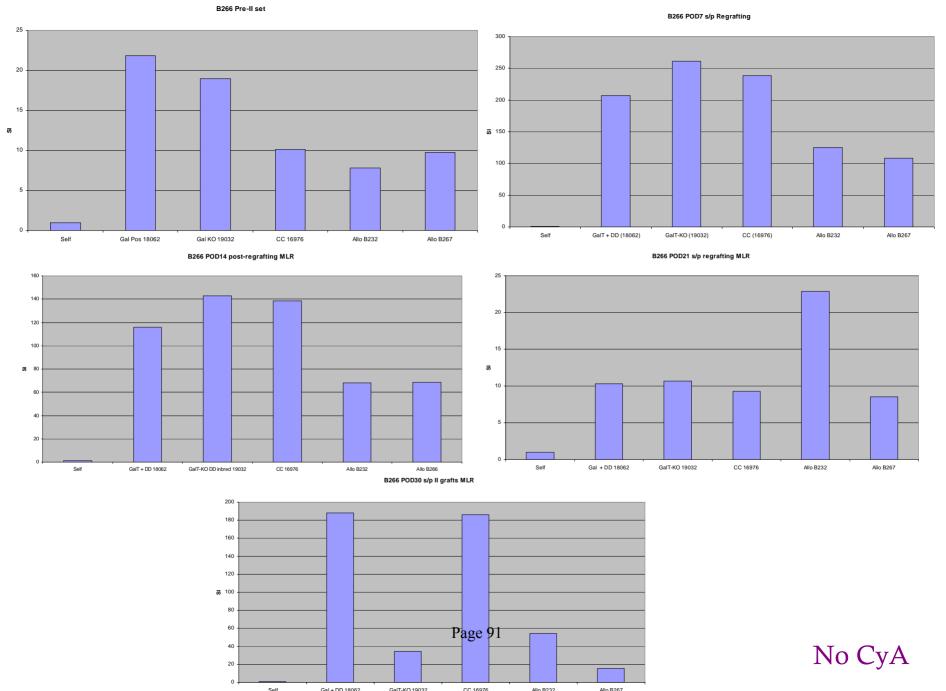


#### B266 POD30 MLR



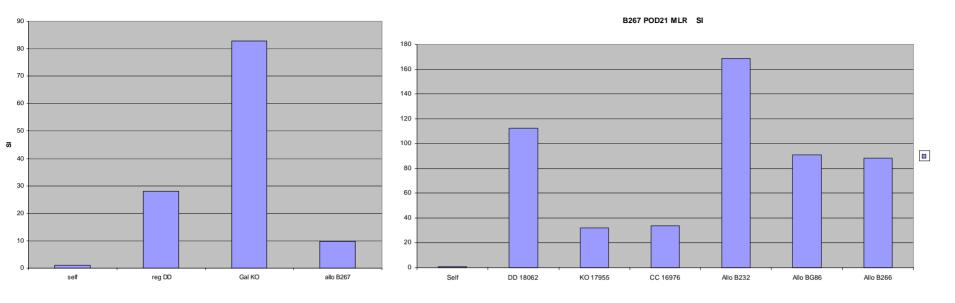
No CyA

# B266 MLRs (following regrafting with Self, Allo, GalT-KO fresh, Gal KO frozen)

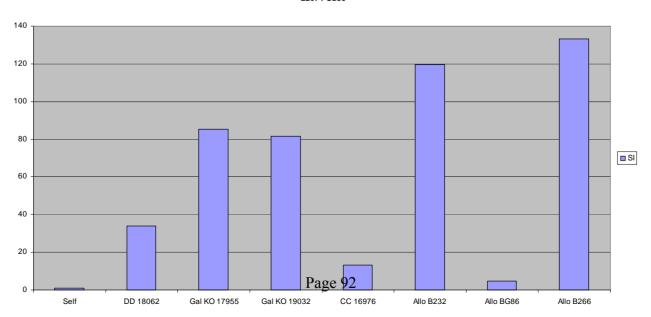


# B267 MLRs (Self, Allo, GalT +, GalT-KO)

Pre-MLR Baboon B266 (9-16-09)

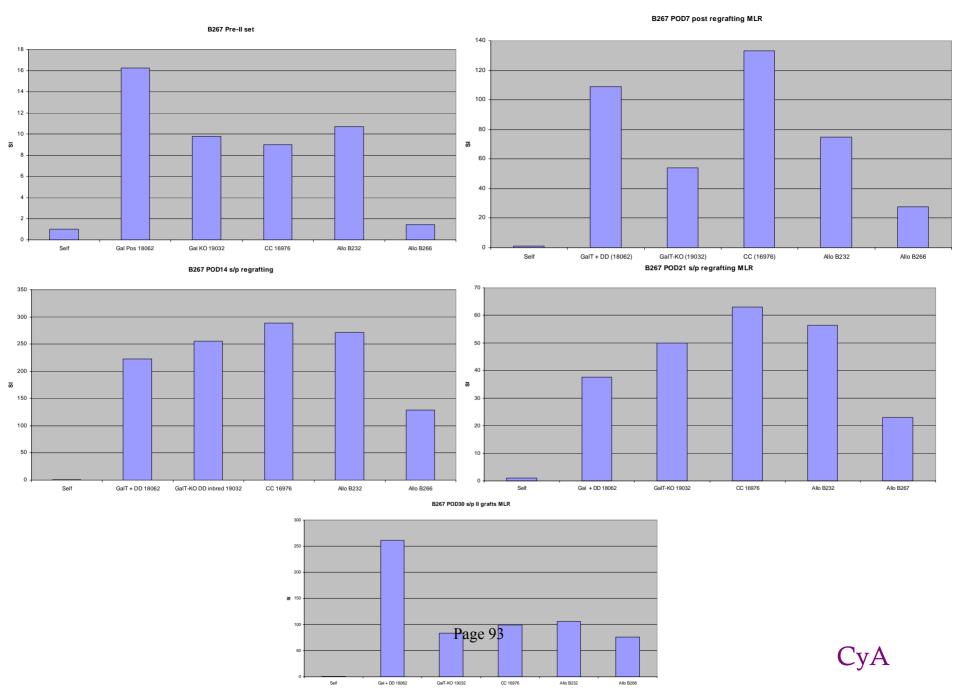




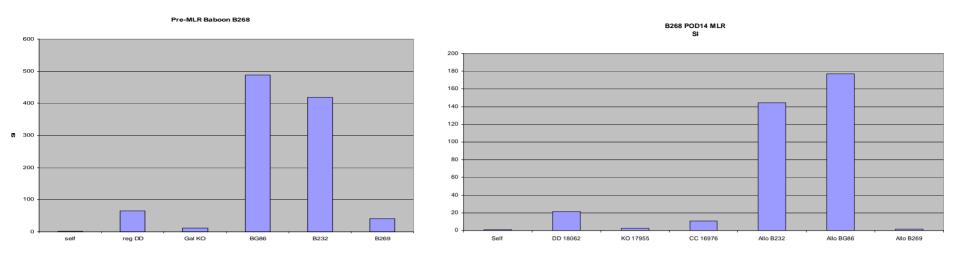


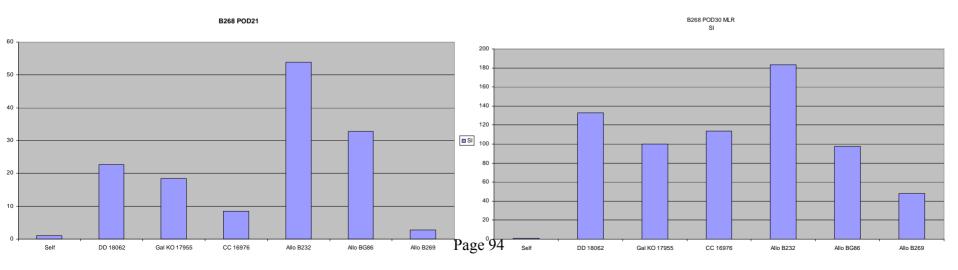
CyA

# B267 MLRs (following regrafting with Self, Allo, GalT-KO fresh, Gal KO frozen)

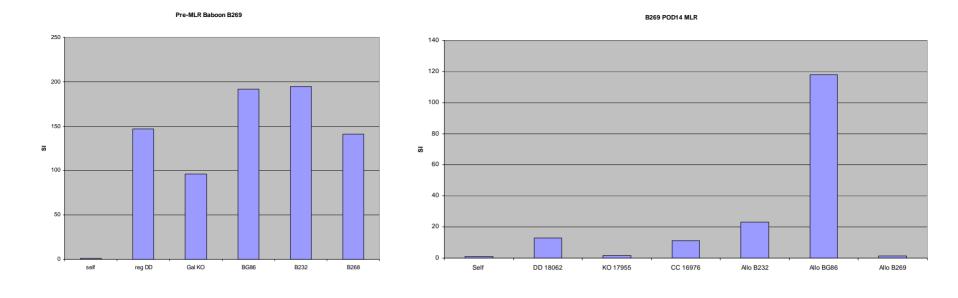


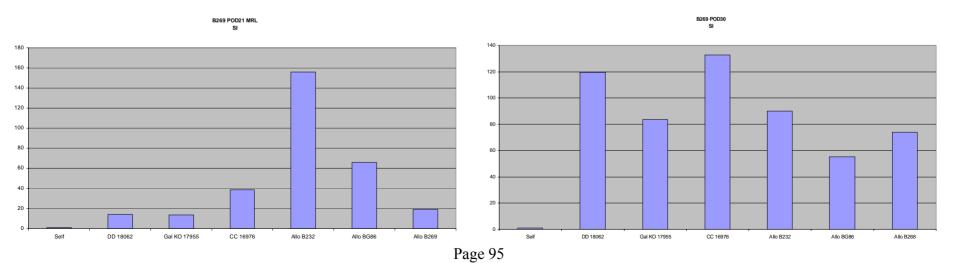
# B268 MLRs (Self, Allo, GalT-KO)



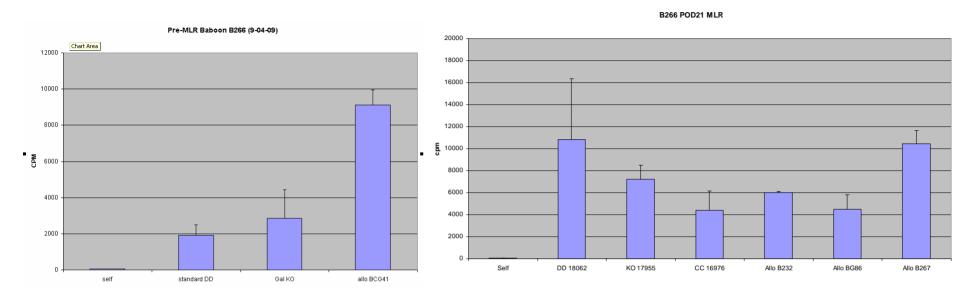


# B269 MLRs (Self, Allo, Gal +)

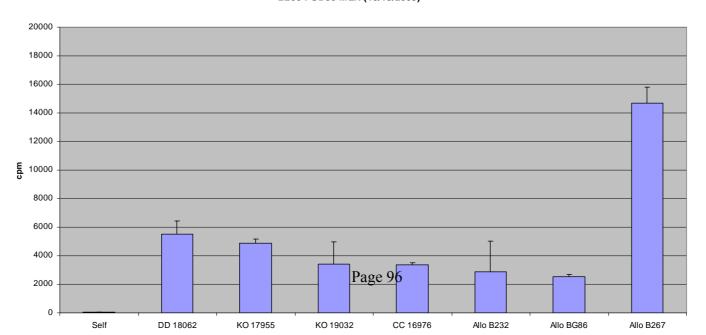




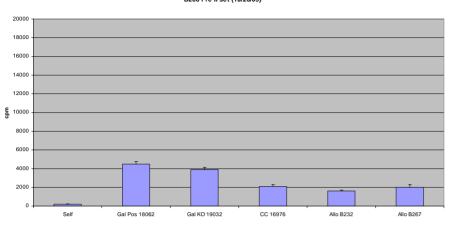
# B266 MLRs (Self, Allo, GalT +. GalT-KO)

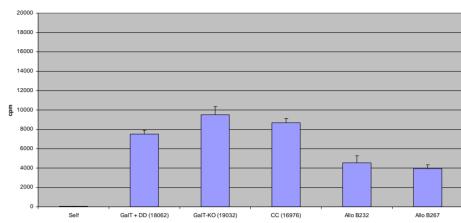


#### B266 POD30 MLR (10/15/2009)

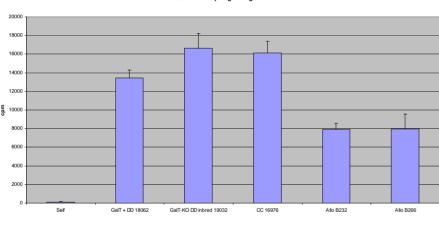


### B266 POD 7 s/p regrafting MLR

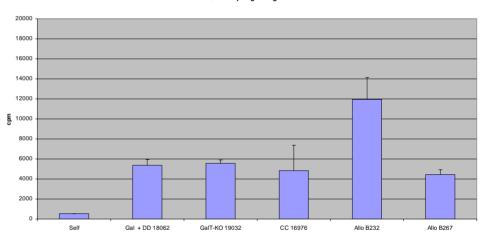




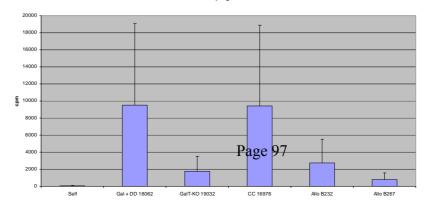
#### B266 POD14 s/p regrafting MLR

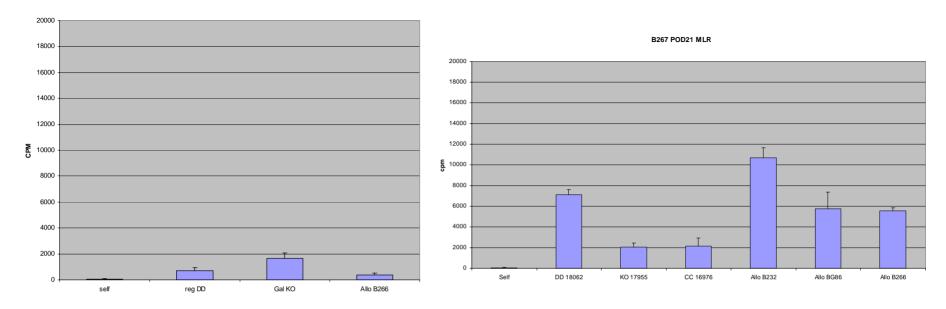


#### B266 POD 21 s/p regrafting MLR

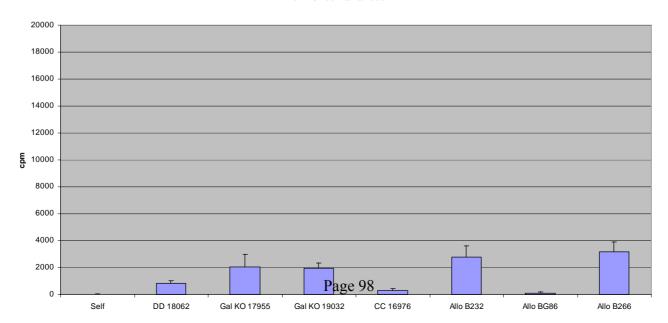


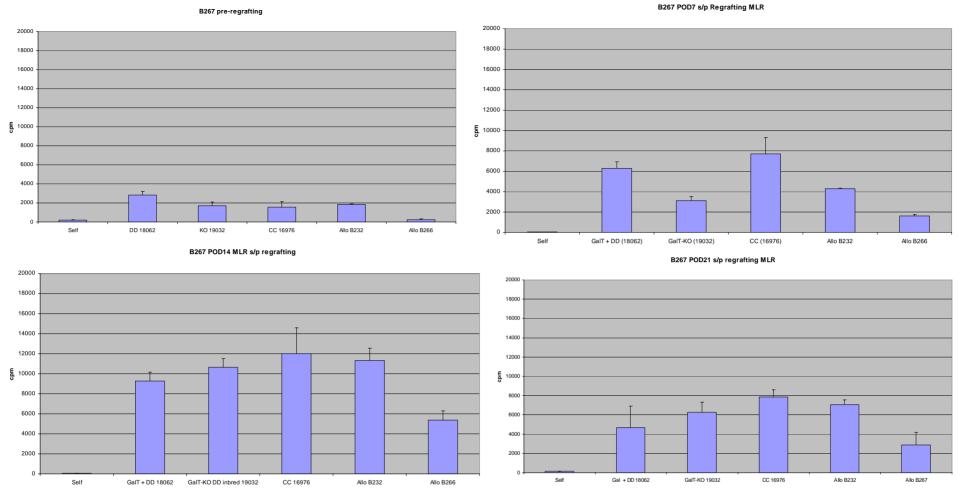
#### B266 POD30 s/p II graft MLR



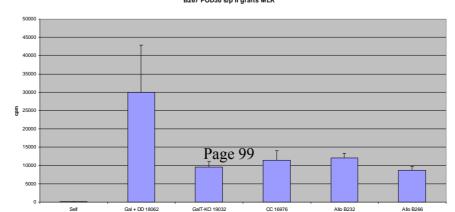


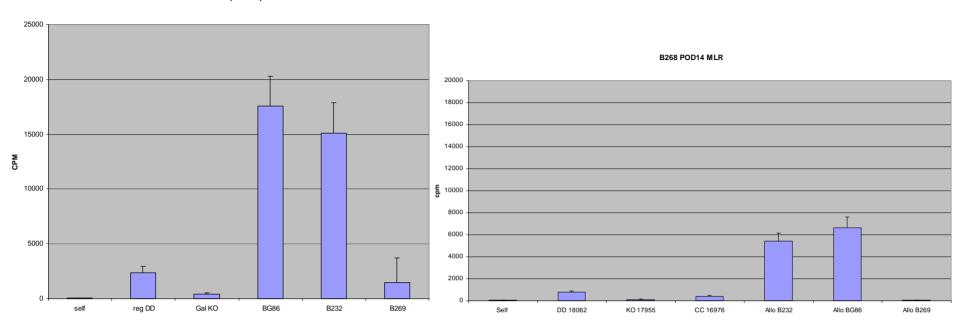
#### B267 POD30 10/15/2009

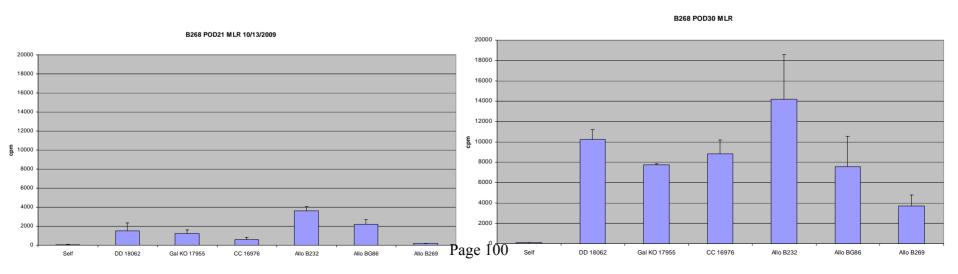




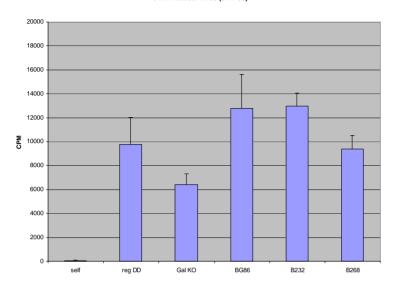




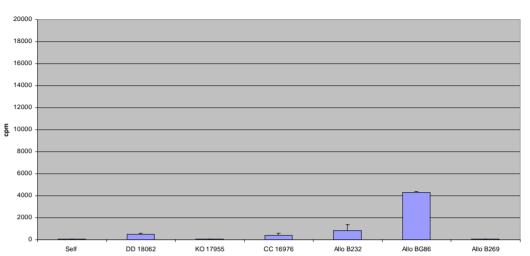




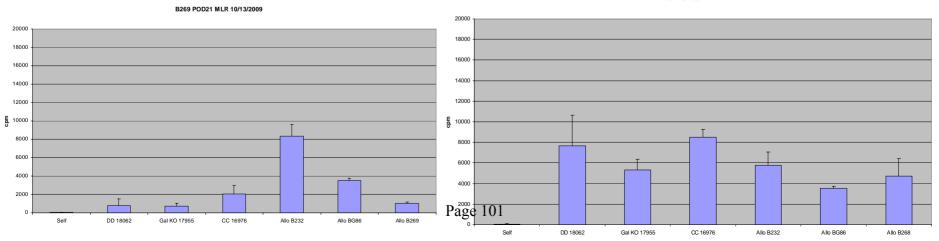
Pre-MLR Baboon B269 (9-22-09)



#### B269 POD14 MLR







# Prolonged survival of GalT-KO swine skin on baboons

Weiner J, Yamada K, Ishikawa Y, Moran S, Etter J, Shimizu A, Smith RN, Sachs DH. Prolonged survival of GalT-KO swine skin on baboons. Xenotransplantation 2010; 17: 147–152. © 2010 John Wiley & Sons A/S.

Abstract: Background: Allogeneic skin is currently the best alternative to autologous skin as a temporary treatment for severe burns, but it has several drawbacks. As a potential alternative, we have evaluated GalT-KO swine skin, which lacks expression of the Gal epitope, to investigate the effect of eliminating this epitope on survival of pig-to-baboon skin grafts.

Methods: Two adult baboons that had fully recovered from previous T cell depletion received simultaneous skin grafts from: (i) GalT-KO swine, (ii) Gal-positive swine, (iii) a third-party baboon, and (iv) self (control skin). Recipients were treated with cyclosporin for 12 days and the survival, gross appearance, and histology of the grafts were compared. Results: In both baboons, the GalT-KO skin survived longer than either the Gal-positive swine skin or the allogeneic skin. Early rejection of the Gal-positive skin appeared to be mediated by cytotoxic preformed anti-Gal IgM antibodies, while the rejection of GalT-KO skin appeared to result from cellular mechanisms.

Conclusions: GalT-KO skin may have potential clinical benefits as an alternative to allogeneic skin as a temporary treatment for severe skin injuries.

#### Joshua Weiner, Kazuhiko Yamada, Yoshinori Ishikawa, Shannon Moran, Justin Etter, Akira Shimizu, Rex Neal Smith and David H. Sachs

The Transplantation Biology Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

Key words: allografts — galT-KO — skin — xenografts — xenotransplantation

Address reprint requests to David H. Sachs, Transplantation Biology Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Building 149-9019, 13th Street, Boston, MA, USA (E-mail: David.Sachs@tbrc.mgh.harvard.edu)

Received 30 October 2009; Accepted 7 January 2010

#### Introduction

According to the American Burn Association, there are approximately 500 000 burn injuries per year in the United States, with roughly 40 000 requiring hospitalization [1].

A treatment option that has helped to decrease mortality over the past 10 yrs has been the immediate excision of burned skin with replacement by grafted skin [2–4]. The ideal material for grafting is autologous skin, taken from a non-burned region of the patient's own skin. The supply of healthy autologous skin, however, is limited in severely burned patients, even when expansion techniques, such as "meshing," are used [5,6]. Allogeneic skin is considered the gold standard for temporary grafts [1]. In addition, it is able to engraft temporarily before rejection occurs, and it can be frozen and stored for transportation or later use. However, disadvantages include ethical concerns, cost considerations, and possibility of disease transmission, and like all types of temporary grafts, it is more easily

infected than autologous skin and not always available.

Pig skin is known to have many characteristics similar to that of humans [7-12] and glutaraldehyde-fixed pig skin has been utilized as a temporary cover for third degree burns under battlefield conditions [13]. The properties of such fixed skin are far inferior to those of living skin, and living pig skin is susceptible to rapid rejection, thought to be due, at least in part, to natural antibodies present in all humans [14,15]. The recent development in this laboratory of genetically modified swine missing the Gal epitope, the major cell surface determinant toward which these antibodies are directed, made it possible that skin from these "GalT-KO" animals might provide a new source of living skin grafts for the immediate treatment of burns. Previous studies in our laboratory have shown that the use of GalT-KO swine donor organs has greatly increased the survival of vascularized xenograft organs in baboon recipients [16,17].

#### Weiner et al.

In an attempt to evaluate whether the use of skin from GalT-KO swine would be of benefit in prolonging the survival of pig-to-primate skin grafts, we transplanted GalT-KO skin onto two baboon recipients and compared the survival of these grafts with that of Gal-positive and allogeneic grafts. We report here the results of this preliminary study.

#### Materials and methods

#### Animals

Two 3- to 4-yr-old baboons that were available from a previous study were used as recipients for this initial experiment. Both animals had been thymectomized and treated with an anti-T cell immunotoxin in the previous protocol and then followed for several months, during which time all immunologic parameters returned to baseline, including natural antibodies as well as numbers and phenotypes of white blood cells in both the peripheral blood and lymph nodes.

Allogeneic skin donors were unrelated baboons available in our animal facility. Xenogeneic donors were from our closed herd of MGH Miniature Swine. Animals from the standard line of SLA<sup>dd</sup>, GalT<sup>+/+</sup> miniature swine [18] or from our GalT<sup>-/-</sup> (GalT-KO) line, derived from this standard inbred line [19], were used.

#### Surgery

Harvesting of donor skin was performed using a Zimmer dermatome (Medfix Solution, Inc., Tucson, AZ, USA), with depth set at 24 mm. Anesthesia consisted of induction with 2 mg/kg ketamine i.m. followed by maintenance with isoflurane administered by mask. Partial thickness sections of skin (approximately  $3 \times 5$  inches) were taken. Grafts were stitched into place with interrupted 1-0 sutures and covered with a Duoderm dressing for 2 days, after which they were left open, protected by a loose fitting jacket. Recipients were treated with 13 mg/kg cyclosporine intramuscularly for 12 days.

#### **Biopsies**

Recipients were sedated and anesthetized to evaluate the skin grafts and draw blood at various times postoperatively. On each of these occasions, grafts were examined, graded, cleaned, and photographed, and blood was drawn for complete blood count, serum collection, and in vitro assays. At selected times, 6.0-mm full-thickness punch

biopsies were taken for histologic evaluation of frozen and formalin samples.

#### PBMC isolation

For separation of peripheral blood leukocytes, freshly heparinized whole blood was diluted 1:2 with Hank's balanced salt solution (HBSS; GIBCO BRL, Gaithersburg, MD, USA) and the mononuclear cells were obtained by gradient centrifugation using lymphocyte separation medium (Organon Teknika, Durham, NC, USA) as previously described [20] and stored in mixed leukocyte reaction (MLR) media.

#### Histology

Biopsy specimens were either fixed in 10% buffered formalin or immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen. Fixed samples were embedded in paraffin, and 4-µ sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Immunohistochemical analysis of frozen samples was carried out using the avidin–biotin horseradish–peroxidase complex technique [21].

#### Complement-mediated cytotoxicity

Cytotoxic antibodies to Gal-positive and GalT-KO PBMC were detected by complement-mediated cytotoxic assays, as previously described [22]. Briefly, target cell suspensions were diluted to  $5 \times 10^6$  cells/ml in Medium 199 (Cellgro, Herndon, VA, USA) supplemented with 2% fetal calf serum and serially diluted from 1:2 to 1:1024. In some cases, IgM was eliminated prior to the assay by adding dithiothreitol (DTT; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) to the serum. In 96-well U-bottom plates (Costar, Cambridge, MA, USA), 25 µl of the appropriate target cell suspension was incubated with 25 µl of diluted serum or controls for 15 min at 37 °C, followed by a second incubation with 25 µl of appropriately diluted rabbit complement. Dead cells were identified by staining for 30 min with 10 ul of 7-AAD. Data were acquired, and the percentage of dead cells was assessed, using a Becton-Dickinson FACScan (San Jose, CA, USA) and analyzed with WinList analysis software (Verity Software House, Topsham, ME, USA).

#### **Results**

Gross findings following skin grafts

On baboon 1, the four skin grafts (self, GalT-KO, Gal positive, and allo baboon, left to right, respectively in Fig. 1A) were placed side-by-side

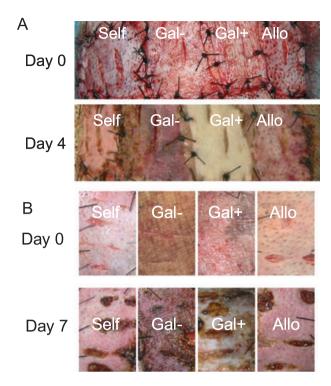


Fig. 1. (A) Baboon 1 skin grafts on days 0 and 4 (from left to right): self, GalT-KO, Gal-positive, allogeneic baboon. (B) Baboon 2 skin grafts on days 0 and 7 (from left to right): self, GalT-KO, Gal-positive, and allogeneic baboon.

on a single graft bed and covered with bacitracin and a gauze dressing. On baboon 2 (Fig. 1B), the graft beds were prepared separately to avoid spreading of local infection or inflammation from one graft to another, and no dressings were applied.

#### Baboon 1

By day 4, the self and allo grafts on baboon 1 were warm, soft, and pink, suggesting that they had engrafted and begun to re-vascularize. The GalT-KO skin was also warm and pink, although with slight mottling. In contrast, the Gal-positive pig skin was cool and white, suggesting a "white graft," as previously described for skin grafts that do not re-vascularize because of hyperacute rejection due to preformed antibodies [23,24]. By day 7, the self skin was still pink and healthy, but the allo skin had begun to develop a crust over the graft, as had the Gal-positive pig skin. The Gal-positive skin also appeared to be infected, producing purulent discharge, and the animal's white blood cell count rose. In contrast, the GalT-KO skin was warm, dark pink, and mostly intact, although localized, superficial infection caused some loss of integrity. The infection in the GalT-KO skin, which damaged part of the graft as well as a portion of the self graft, appeared to have spread from the neighboring infected Gal-positive skin. The animal was treated for 3 days with 15 mg/kg per day i.v. vancomycin, after which the superficial infection cleared and the white count returned to normal. By day 9, the allo skin had been totally rejected and was covered by scab, while a portion of the GalT-KO skin still remained intact. The self skin remained normal. The GalT-KO appeared to be totally rejected by day 11.

#### Baboon 2

On day 4, the self and allo grafts on baboon 2 were likewise warm, soft, and pink, whereas the Galpositive graft was bright white and cool to touch. The GalT-KO skin was warm and soft, but with some purple mottling. There was minimal bleeding when the Gal-positive biopsy was taken, suggesting poor vascularization. The grafts appeared much the same on day 7 (Fig. 1B) except that a portion of the Gal-positive graft appeared grossly necrotic and purulent. By day 11, self skin was still warm, soft, and pink, but the allo skin was fully crusted with only half of it remaining intact. The Galpositive skin was mostly crust with two small areas that remained bright white. The GalT-KO skin showed some moderate crusting at the edges, but otherwise remained soft and warm. By day 14, a small portion still appeared viable, and the final biopsy was taken from this portion.

#### Histologic findings following skin grafts

As seen in Fig. 2, the histology of the self skin graft on baboon 1 remained normal except for a small amount of non-specific granulation tissue on day 7 and evidence of localized bacterial infection on day 9. The histology of the allogeneic skin graft appeared normal on day 0, showed slight vacuolization on day 4, developed a dense cellular infiltrate by day 7 and appeared to be fully rejected by day 9, with histologic evidence of a regenerating host skin bed beneath the rejected graft. Consistent with the gross observation of a white graft, the Galpositive pig skin never showed histologic evidence of engraftment (Fig. 2). Histology on day 4 showed thrombi in small vessels, consistent with hyperacute rejection, leading to occlusion of the blood vessels. Immunohistochemistry revealed a large amount of anti-Gal but not anti-non-Gal antibody deposition by this time (Fig. 4A,B), and the graft was necrotic by day 7. In contrast, the GalT-KO skin graft appeared essentially normal on days 4 and 7, with only mild congestion. Antibody deposition was not observed by immunohistochemistry until day 9, at which point the graft showed

Page 104 149

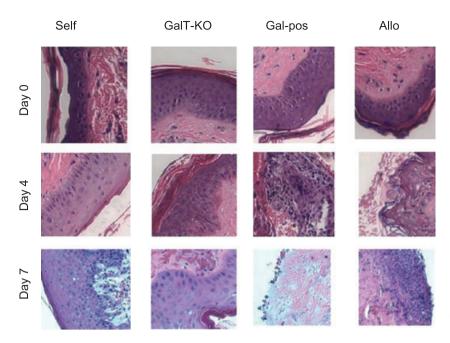


Fig. 2. Histology of skin grafts on baboon 1, biopsies on days 0, 4, and 7.

evidence for cellular rejection similar to that seen in the allograft on day 7 (data not shown).

In baboon 2, the interpretation of early histologic samples of skin graft biopsies was less clear. However, by day 4, the Gal-positive skin showed antibody deposition, and by day 11 it appeared completely non-viable, respectively. In contrast, in the GalT-KO skin graft, antibody deposition was observed only after day 7 and the graft remained viable on day 11 (Fig. 4C,D). It still showed partial viability on day 14, although with considerable inflammation. The graft bed was visible in this sample, confirming that the viable epidermis was in fact graft-derived.

#### Antibody responses to skin grafts

Cytotoxicity assays with and without DTT showed that despite high levels of anti-Gal and anti-non-Gal preformed IgG in both baboons, all antibody-mediated cytotoxicity in the first week was almost entirely mediated by preformed anti-Gal IgM. After 7 days, however, both the amount and cytotoxicity of anti-Gal and anti-non-Gal IgG increased markedly (Fig. 3).

#### **Discussion**

The results reported in this preliminary study suggest that GalT-KO xenografted skin is preferable to normal, Gal-positive swine skin, and as good as or better than allogeneic skin (i.e., cadaveric human skin) for use as an acute skin transplant to cover severe burn injuries. The gross observations on the skin grafts in this study were

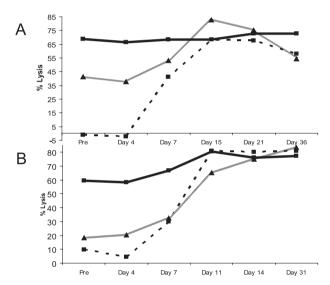


Fig. 3. Antibody-complement mediated cytotoxicity assay of sera from baboons 1 (A) and 2 (B) at 1 : 4 dilution showed increased antibody-mediated cytotoxicity after day 4, with higher baseline killing levels against Gal-positive cells than against GalT-KO cells. Addition of DTT demonstrated that early cytotoxicity was largely due to preformed anti-Gal IgM (solid black line ■--■ = Gal-positive cell targets without DTT, solid gray line ▲--▲ = GalT-KO cell targets without DTT, dashed black line = Gal-positive cell targets with DTT).

substantiated by the histological findings in both animals.

The antigen most responsible for rapid rejection of normal pig tissues is the  $\alpha$ -1,3-Galactose (Gal) moiety, found on the cell surfaces of all mammalian species, except Old World primates and humans [15]. Primates have high levels of preformed antibodies to Gal and after transplantation, these antibodies bind to the Gal antigen on

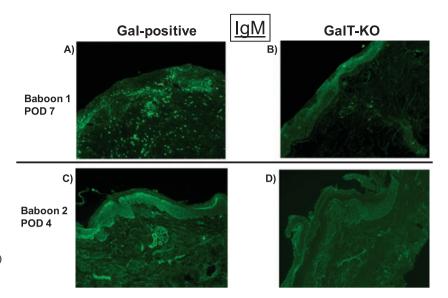


Fig. 4. Immunohistochemistry of Gal-positive (A,C) and GalT-KO (B,D) skin on baboons 1 (POD 7) and 2 (POD4) showing early deposition of anti-Gal IgM but not anti-non-Gal IgM.

vascular endothelial cells. There, they fix complement, damaging the endothelium and triggering the coagulation cascade, resulting in immediate rejection by occlusion of graft vessels [25]. This process, which is dependent on both antibody levels and on the level of antigen expression on endothelial cells [26], was likely responsible for the early rejection of Gal-positive skin in both baboon recipients in the present study, leading to non-vascularized or "white grafts" by day 4 in both cases. The much lower levels of preformed anti-non-Gal antibodies were likely responsible for the much milder evidence of humoral rejection observed several days later for GalT-KO skin. Although some humans also have antibodies against non-Gal pig antigens, previous studies in our laboratory have demonstrated that these antibodies are generally of low prevalence and titer [22].

Therefore, prolonged survival of GalT-KO skin compared with Gal-positive skin confirms the importance of immune recognition of Gal. However, it is less clear why the survival of GalT-KO skin should have been prolonged over that of allogeneic skin, as in neither case would high levels of anti-donor antibody-mediated reactivity be expected. Preliminary mixed lymphocyte reaction data indicate that, in the absence of a major contribution of humoral rejection, the strength of anti-donor cellular responses may determine the kinetics of rejection (data not shown). Further experiments are in progress to determine whether or not this correlation is generalizable and will be reported in a subsequent publication.

In summary, these results suggest that xenogeneic pig skin from GalT-KO swine may provide a less expensive, more readily available and

potentially long-lasting alternative to allogeneic human skin as an initial covering for extensive burn injuries.

#### **Acknowledgments**

This work was supported in part by grants from the Department of Defense (Grant Number: DR080729) and the NIH/NIAID (Grant Number: 5P01AI45897-09).

Patents: Alpha (1,3) Galactosyltransferase Negative (GalT-KO) Swine (00841.10)

#### References

- ORGILL DP. Excision and skin grafting of thermal burns. N Engl J Med 2009; 360: 893–901.
- DESAI MH, HERNDON DN, BROEMELING L et al. Early burn wound excision significantly reduces blood loss. Ann Surg 1990; 211: 753–759.
- 3. NAKAZAWA H, NOZAKI M. Experience of immediate burn wound excision and grafting for patients with extensive burns. Nippon Geka Gakkai Zasshi 2005; 106: 745–749.
- 4. WANG YB, OGAWA Y, KAKUDO N, KUSUMOTO K. Survival and wound contraction of full-thickness skin grafts are associated with the degree of tissue edema of the graft bed in immediate excision and early wound excision and grafting in a rabbit model. J Burn Care Res 2007; 28: 182–186.
- LARI AR, GANG RK. Expansion technique for skin grafts (Meek technique) in the treatment of severely burned patients. Burns 2001; 27: 61–66.
- VANDEPUT J, NELISSEN M, TANNER JC, BOSWICK J. A review of skin meshers. Burns 1995; 21: 364–370.
- HARUNARI N, ZHU KQ, ARMENDARIZ RT et al. Histology of the thick scar on the female, red Duroc pig: final similarities to human hypertrophic scar. Burns 2006; 32: 669– 677
- 8. Motlik J, Klima J, Dvorankova B, Smetana K Jr. Porcine epidermal stem cells as a biomedical model for

Page 106 151

- wound healing and normal/malignant epithelial cell propagation. Theriogenology 2007; 67: 105–111.
- 9. SIMON GA, MAIBACH HI. The pig as an experimental animal model of percutaneous permeation in man: qualitative and quantitative observations an overview. Skin Pharmacol Appl Skin Physiol 2000; 13: 229–234.
- SULLIVAN TP, EAGLSTEIN WH, DAVIS SC, MERTZ P. The pig as a model for human wound healing. Wound Repair Regen 2001; 9: 66–76.
- 11. VODICKA P, SMETANA K JR, DVORANKOVA B et al. The miniature pig as an animal model in biomedical research. Ann N Y Acad Sci 2005; 1049: 161–171.
- ZHU KQ, ENGRAV LH, TAMURA RN et al. Further similarities between cutaneous scarring in the female, red Duroc pig and human hypertrophic scarring. Burns 2004; 30: 518–530.
- SCHECHTER I. Prolonged retention of glutaraldehydetreated skin allografts and xenografts: immunological and histological studies. Ann Surg 1975; 182: 699–704.
- GALILI U, WANG L, LATEMPLE DC, RADIC MZ. The natural anti-Gal antibody. Subcell Biochem 1999; 32: 79– 106.
- GALILI U, SHOHET SB, KOBRIN E, STULTS CL, MACHER BA. Man, apes, and old world monkeys differ from other mammals in the expression of alpha-galactosyl epitopes on nucleated cells. J Biol Chem 1988; 263: 17755–17762.
- YAMADA K, YAZAWA K, SHIMIZU A et al. Marked prolongation of porcine renal xenograft survival in baboons through the use of alpha1,3-galactosyltransferase geneknockout donors and the cotransplantation of vascularized thymic tissue. Nat Med 2005; 11: 32–34.
- 17. OZATO K, MAYER NM, SACHS DH. Monoclonal antibodies to mouse major histocompatibility complex antigens. Transplantation 1982; 34: 113–120.

- MEZRICH JD, HALLER GW, ARN JS et al. Histocompatible miniature swine: an inbred large-animal model. Transplantation 2003; 75: 904–907.
- KOLBER-SIMONDS D, LAI L, WATT SR et al. Production of alpha-1,3-galactosyltransferase null pigs by means of nuclear transfer with fibroblasts bearing loss of heterozygosity mutations. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2004; 101: 7335–7340.
- YAMADA K, GIANELLO PR, IERINO FL et al. Role of the thymus in transplantation tolerance in miniature swine: I. Requirement of the thymus for rapid and stable induction of tolerance to class I-mismatched renal allografts. J Exp Med 1997; 186: 497–506.
- SHIMIZU A, YAMADA K, SACHS DH, COLVIN RB. Intragraft events preceding chronic renal allograft rejection in a modified tolerance protocol. Kidney Int 2000; 58: 2546–2558.
- WONG BS, YAMADA K, OKUMI M. Allosensitization does not increase the risk of xenoreactivity to alpha1,3-galactosyltransferase gene-knockout miniature swine in patients on transplantation waiting lists. Transplantation 2006; 82: 314–319
- 23. EICHWALD EJ, DOLBERG ML. Analogs of the murine white-graft reaction. Cell Immunol 1979; 43: 398–406.
- 24. EICHWALD EJ, PAY G, BUSATH D, SMITH C. Ischemic versus cytotoxic damage in the white graft reaction. Its relationship to hyperacute kidney rejection. Transplantation 1976; 22: 86–93.
- AUCHINCLOSS HJ, SACHS DH. Xenogeneic transplantation. Annu Rev Immunol 1998; 16: 433–470.
- MURRAY-SEGAL L, GOCK H, COWAN PJ, D'APICE AJ. Anti-Gal antibody-mediated skin graft rejection requires a threshold level of Gal expression. Xenotransplantation 2008; 15: 20–26.

Page 107

Gal-KO Xenoskin Graft Survival is Comparable to Skin Allotransplantation for Burn Injury

Angelo A Leto Barone, MD<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Josh Weiner<sup>1</sup>, John Hanekamp, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Curtis L Cetrulo, Jr, MD<sup>1,2</sup>, David H Sachs, MD<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Transplant Biology Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, <sup>2</sup>Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, <sup>3</sup>Dipartmento di Discipline Chirurgiche ed Oncologiche, Sezione di Chirurgia Plastica e Ricostruttiva, Universita' degli Studi di Palermo, Italia

**INTRODUCTION:** Efficacious, readily-available, cost-effective therapies are lacking for severely burned patients. Xenografting may provide patients with temporary coverage. Gal-KO swine lack the  $\alpha$ -1,3-galactosyltransferase gene, associated with hyperacute rejection across xenogenic barriers. Gal-KO skin may provide coverage of burns, , analogous to currently-used cadaveric allografts.

**METHODS:** Non-Human Primates underwent split-thickness skin transplantation. Baboon 1 received self, allo-baboon, Gal-KO, and Gal+ xenografts. Baboon 2 underwent the same procedure but received immunosuppressive therapy with CyA (15 mg/kg/day). Grafts were visualized and punch-biopsied on PODs 4,7,11,14,21 and 30. Following rejection of the primary grafts and presumed sensitization, animals were re-transplanted on POD41 with self, allo, fresh Gal-KO skin and frozen Gal-KO skin. CyA levels were measured q3d, maintaining therapeutic circulating levels of 200-600 ng/mL. Mixed Lymphocyte Reaction (MLR), ELISPOT, and flow cytometric immunologic assays were performed at multiple time points prior to and following transplant.

**RESULTS:** In both animals, Gal-KO xenografts and baboon allografts were viable on POD11 and rejected by POD14. Gal+ xenografts displayed hyperacute rejection by POD4 in both animals. No clinical difference in graft survival was observed between the two animals (with and without CyA). Gal-KO retransplants were rejected by POD4. No difference was observed between fresh or frozen xenografts. Pathology confirmed clinical rejection in all cases. Sensitization was confirmed using MLR. Class switching of anti-nonGal IgM to IgG was observed on FACS and ELISPOT.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Gal-KO xenografts are comparable to allografts. Sensitization leads to hyperacute rejection. Hyperacute rejection of Gal+ skin occurs by POD4 due to anti-Gal Abs. The lack of a significant difference in viability between fresh and frozen GalT-KO skin suggests that this model could be used for treatment of severe burns when cadaver skin is not readily available.





# Comparable Graft Survival of GalT-KO Pig Skin and Allogeneic Skin on Baboons

Angelo A Leto Barone<sup>1, 2</sup>, Joshua Weiner<sup>1</sup>, John S Hanekamp<sup>1</sup>, Kazuhiko Yamada<sup>1</sup>, Curtis L Cetrulo, Jr <sup>1, 2</sup> and David H Sachs<sup>1</sup>

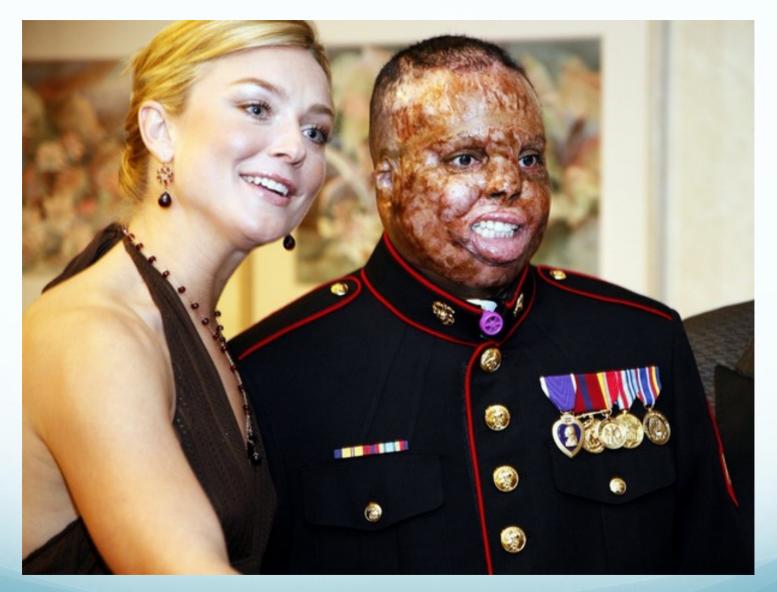
<sup>1</sup> Transplant Biology Research Center Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Page 109

2 Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

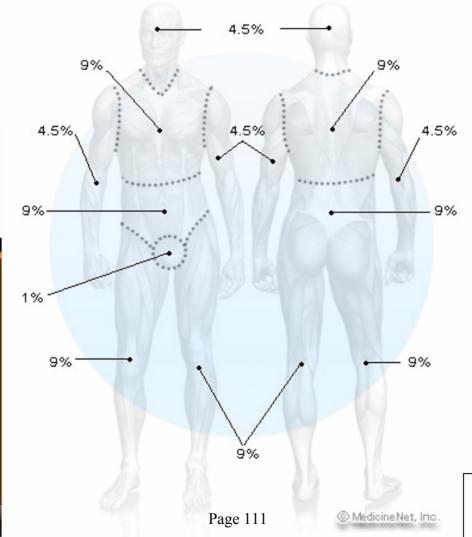
#### The Need



Page 110

# **Burn Assessment**

Burn Percentage in Adults: Rule of Nines



AT&T 3G

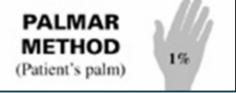
Total 40.5%

Right Leg

9%

🔻 62 % 🔳

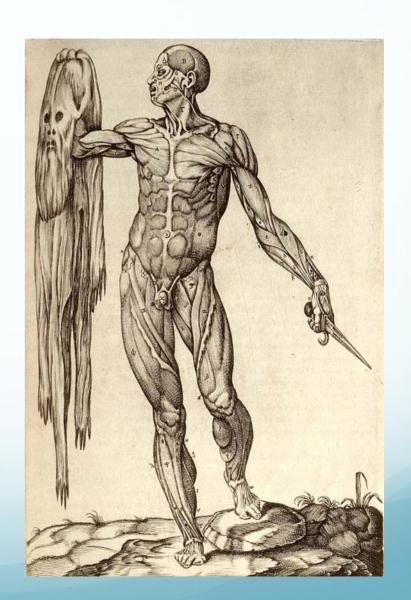
Clear



### Main Goals of Burn Treatment:

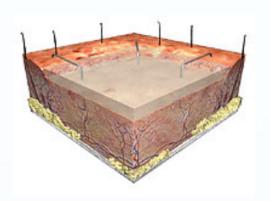
- Maintain Barrier function
  - Retain Fluids
  - Preserve Body Temperature

Minimize Infection



# Skin Replacement options

- Autografts
- Allografts from cadaveric skin
- Skin expansion
- Biomaterials (Integra®)
- Keratinocytes
- Glutaraldehydepreserved Swine Skin



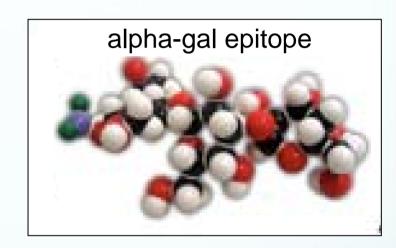




# Background

 Galactose-α1,3-galactose epitope (Gal) is ubiquitously expressed in pig cells

 Gal is associated with hyperacute rejection of organs across xenogeneic barriers



 Hyperacute rejection is due to natural preformed anti-Gal antibodies present in primates

## GalT-KO Xenografts

- 2002: Development of α-1,3-galactosyltransferase KO (GalT-KO) swine
  - Lacks Gal epitope
  - Circumvents hyperacute rejection of organs by primates

 Question: Could GalT-KO skin provide temporary early coverage of burns, analogous to currently-used cadaveric *allo*grafts?



Page 115

"Goldie", November 18, 2002

### Genetically-Modified Porcine Skin Grafts for Treatment of Severe Burn Injuries

Aim 1: To assess whether GalT-KO skin provides coverage for as long as Allo skin

- Immunosuppression vs. No Immunosupression (CyA vs. no CyA)

Aim 2: To compare Fresh vs Frozen skin in primary and secondary grafts

Aim 3: To investigate the sensitization process following Xeno and Allo skin transplantation

Page 116

#### **XENO SKIN GRAFTS**

#### Aim 1

#### Recipients **Donors** B280 **B282** GalT + Self GalT-KO Allo **B280 B282 B280** GalT-KO GalT + Self Allo **B282** Page 117 (CyA)

#### **B280 (No CyA)**







Gal +

Page 118



Allo



**Gal KO** 

### **B280 (No CyA)**

### POD13

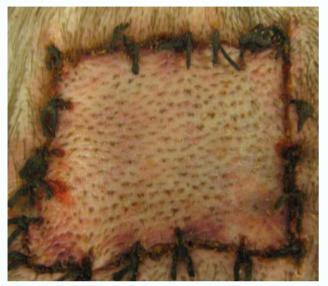
#### Allo



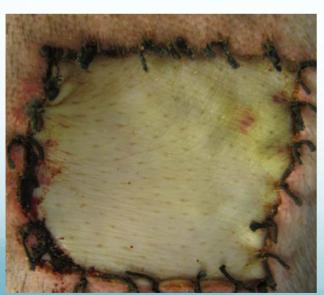
Page 119

#### **B282 (CyA)**

Self **Gal KO** 









POD4



Page 120

Allo

Gal +



**Gal KO** 

B282 (CyA)

### POD11

Allo



Page 121

### Genetically-Modified Porcine Skin Grafts for Treatment of Severe Burn Injuries

Aim 1: To assess whether GalT-KO skin provides coverage for as long as Allo skin

Immunosuppression vs. No Immunosupression (CyA vs. no CyA)

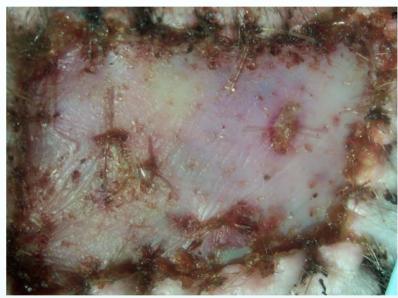
#### **Conclusions:**

- GalT-KO skin provides temporary coverage comparable to Allogeneic skin
- CyA prolonged survival of skin grafts by 1-2 days

# Aim 2: To Compare Fresh vs. Frozen GalT-KO Skin in <a href="Primary Grafts">Primary Grafts</a>

#### Split -Thickness Skin Grafts over full thickness wounds

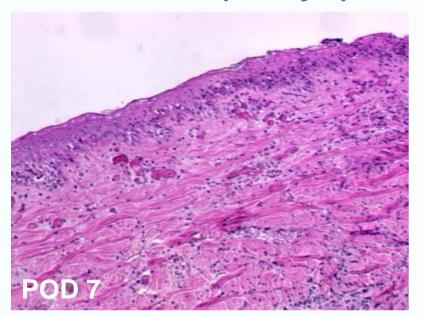




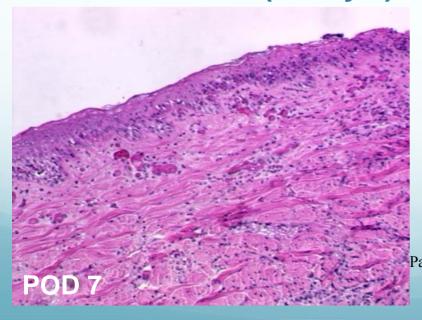
Gal KO Fresh

Gal KO Frozen

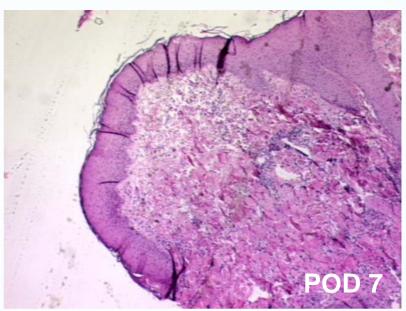
GalT-KO (no CyA)



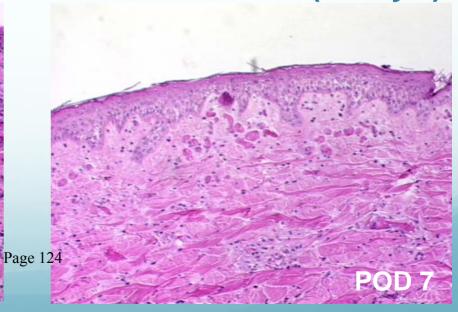
**GalT-KO Fresh (no CyA)** 



Allo skin (no CyA)



GalT-KO Frozen (no CyA)



### Genetically-Modified Porcine Skin Grafts for Treatment of Severe Burn Injuries

Aim 2: To compare Fresh vs Frozen skin in primary and secondary grafts

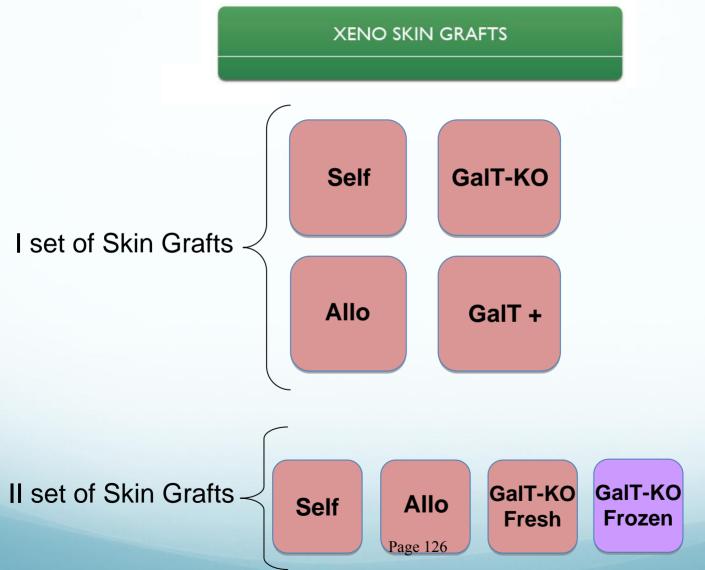
#### **Conclusions:**

 No major differences were observed between fresh and frozen GalT-KO skin

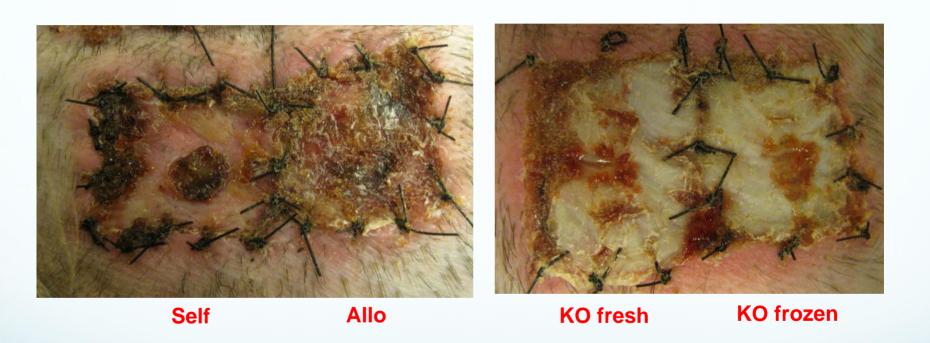


# Aim 3: To investigate the sensitization process following Xeno and Allo skin transplantation

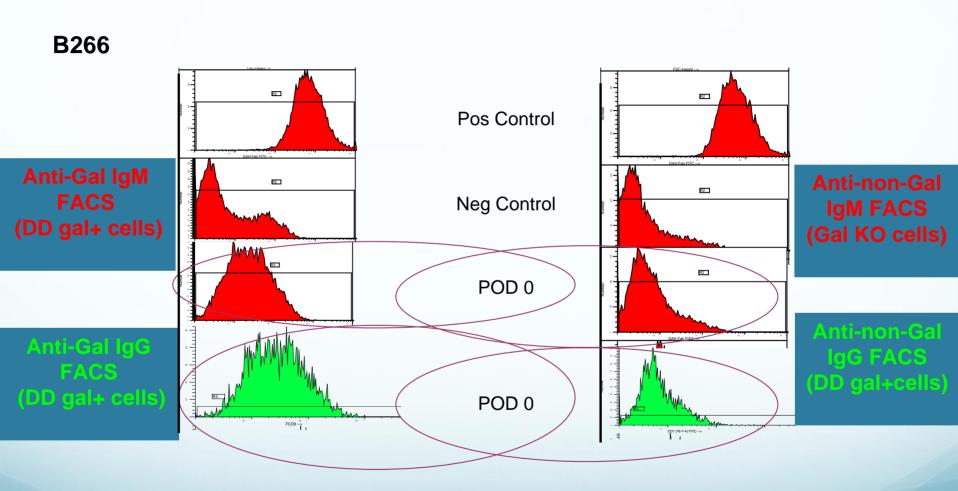


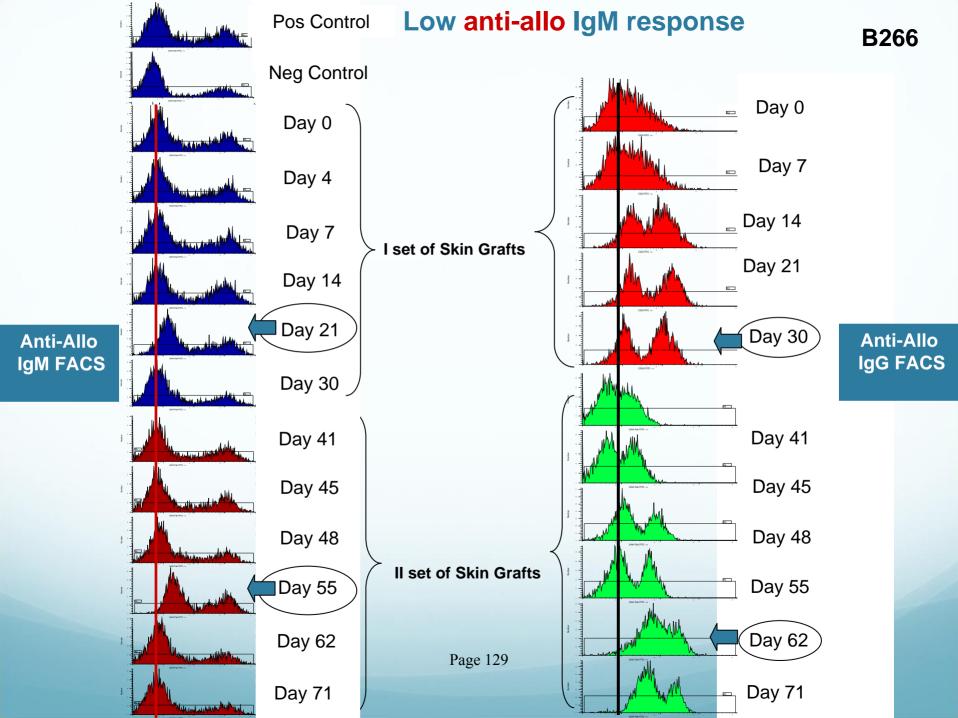


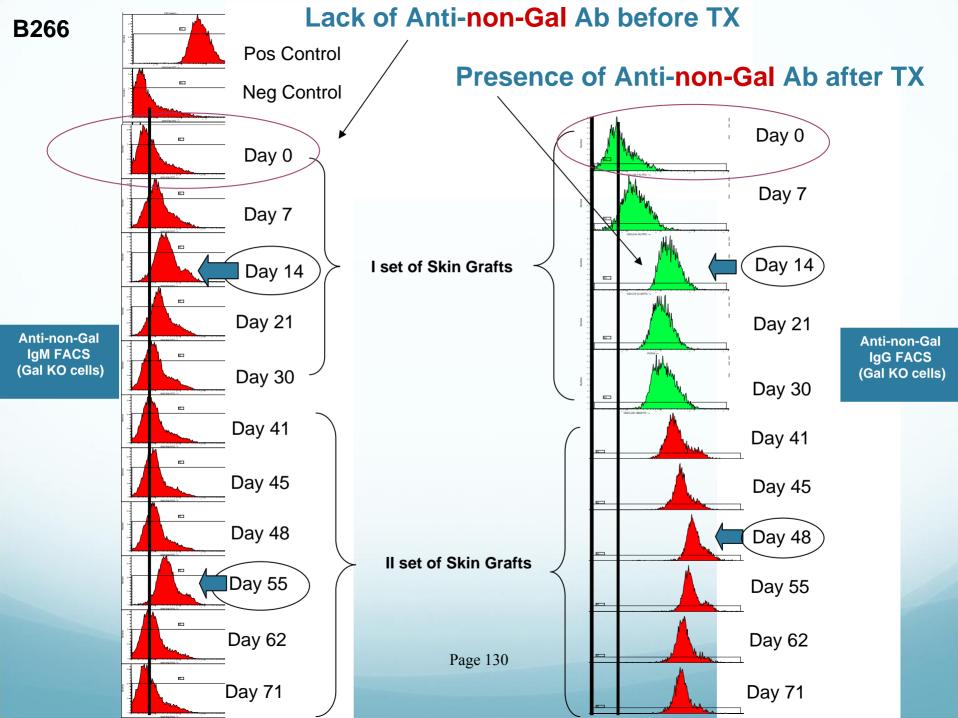
### GalT-KO skin regrafts rejected hyperacutely in sensitized animals



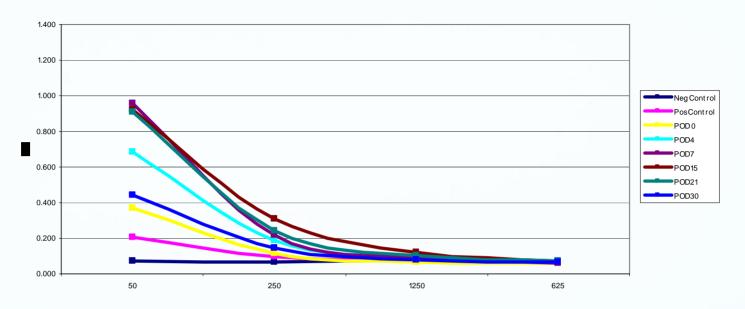
#### Lack of Anti-non-Gal Ab before TX



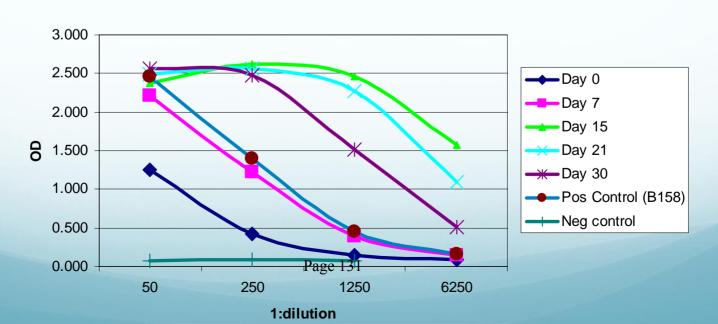




#### B266 Anti-Gal IgM ELISA (s/p 1st set of grafts)

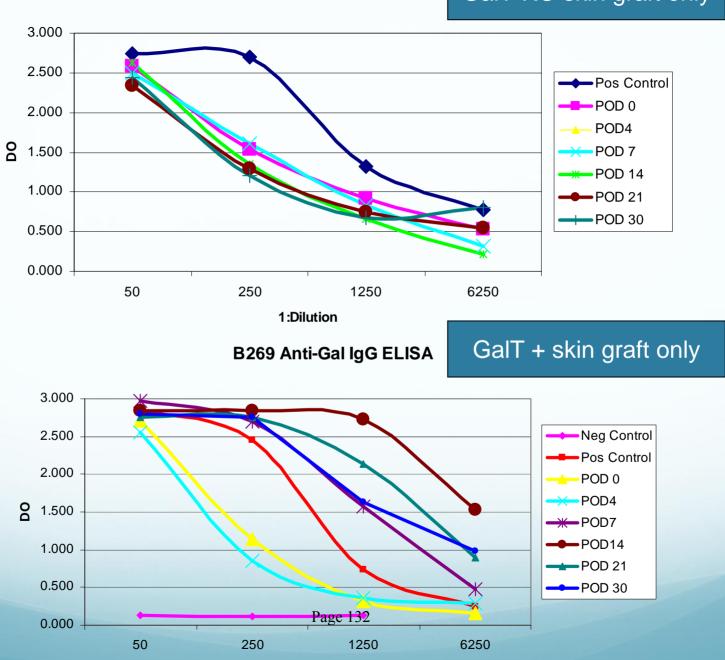


B266 Anti-Gal IgG ELISA (s/p 1st set of grafts)



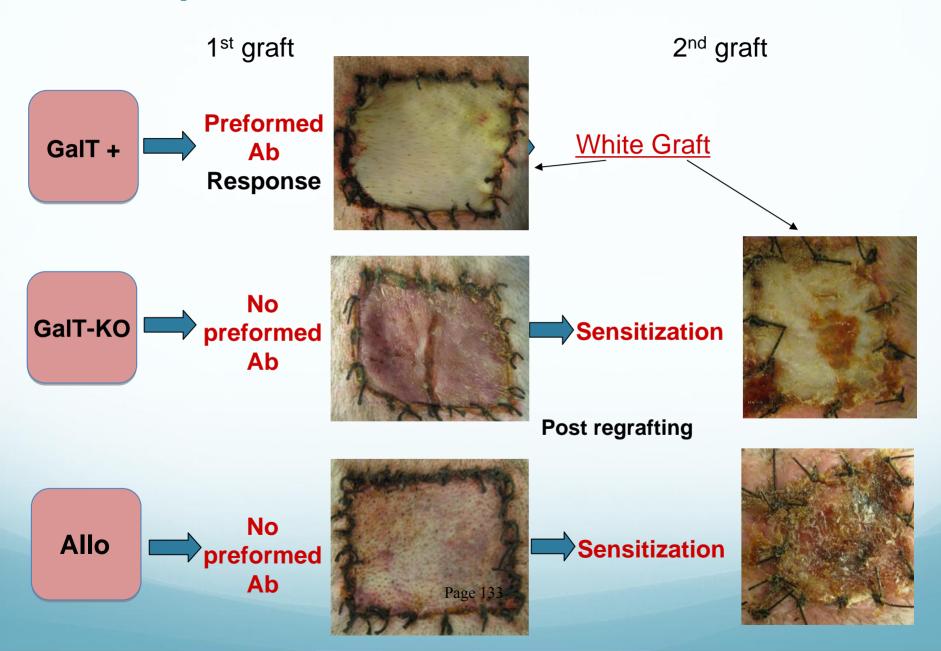


#### GalT-KO skin graft only

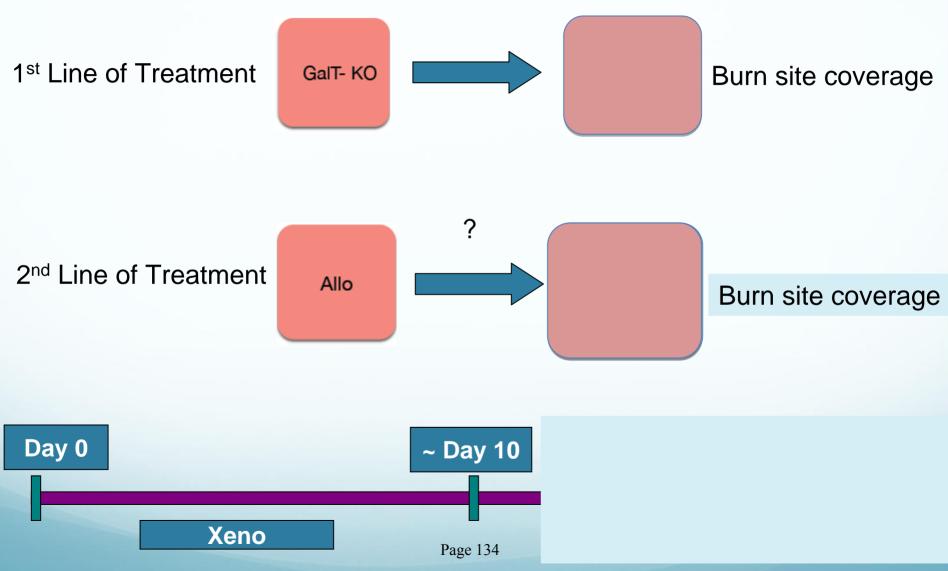


1:Dilution

# **Experimental Observations**



# Possible Clinical Treatment Strategy (currently being studied)



# Summary

 GalT-KO skin xenografts exhibit comparable survival to allografts (Xenografts = Allografts)

 GalT-positive skin is rejected in a Hyperacute fashion, presumably due to preformed antibodies (White Graft)

 No differences in survival of fresh vs frozen GalT-KO skin was observed following re-transplant

# Summary

 GalT-KO skin can be used as a temporary skin substitute in severe burns in lieu of Allografts or Biomaterials

 Current studies: Can Xeno skin be used as a first line skin substitute to allow for subsequent successful use of Allografts and prolong wound coverage?

#### Acknowledgments





#### Transplantation Biology Research Center (TBRC)

- Curtis L. Cetrulo Jr, M.D.
- Radbeh Torabi
- Fan Liang, M.D.
- David H. Sachs, M.D.
- TBRC Staff

DOD Grant: W81XWH-09-1-0419

#### Harvard Plastic Surgery

- Jay Austen, M.D.
- Michael Yaremchuk, M.D.
- Mark Randolph, M.S.



Subcommittee on Research Animal Care Massachusetts General Hospital 149 13<sup>th</sup> Street

Charlestown, MA 02129 Tel: (617) 726-3495 Fax: (617) 724-2475

#### Notification of IACUC Review

Protocol #: 2009N000062 / 6

Date: March 31, 2010

To: David H. Sachs, MD

MGH, Surgery CNY 149 9019

From: Diane McCabe, IACUC Manager

Research Management

Title of Protocol:

Genetically-modified Porcine Skin Grafts for Treatment of Severe Burn

Injuries (Swine)

Sponsor:

ARMY-DOD

Species / Number:

Swine / 264

Annual Review #:

1

Approval Date:

03/31/2010

Expiration Date:

05/20/2012

Annual Report Due:

03/31/2011

This Annual Report has been reviewed and approved by the MGH Subcommittee on Research Animal Care (SRAC) — OLAW Assurance # A3596-01. The protocol as submitted and reviewed conforms to the USDA Animal Welfare Act, PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the "ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" and other applicable laws and regulations. The protocol is approved for a three-year period, subject to submission of annual reports.

Please note that if a SRAC member had a conflict of interest with regard to the review of this protocol, that member left the room during the discussion and the vote on this project.

As Principal Investigator you are responsible for the following:

- Compliance with MGH SRAC/CCM Policies governing the care and use of animals.
- Submission in writing of changes to this project for SRAC review and approval prior to initiation of the change.
- 3. Submission of annual progress reports to the SRAC for review and approval.
- 4. Submission of a copy of this approval to CCM when ordering animals.

The SRAC can and will terminate projects that are not in compliance with these requirements. Direct questions, correspondence and forms to Diane McCabe, the IACUC Manager, Tel: (617) 724-9718, Fax: (617) 724-2475.





Subcommittee on Research Animal Care Massachusetts General Hospital

149 13<sup>th</sup> Street

Charlestown, MA 02129 Tel: (617) 726-3495 Fax: (617) 724-2475

#### **Notification of IACUC Review**

Protocol #: 2009N000063 / 1

Date: August 25, 2009

To: David H. Sachs, MD

MGH, Surgery CNY 149 9019

From: Diane McCabe, IACUC Manager

Rese arch Management

Title of Protocol: Genetically-modified Porcine Skin Grafts for Treatment of Severe Burn

Injuries (Baboons)

Sponsor: ARMY-DOD

Species / Number: Monkeys - Baboon / 137

 Approval Date:
 07/15/2009

 Effective Date:
 08/25/2009

 Expiration Date:
 07/15/2012

 Annual Report Due:
 07/15/2010

This Protocol has been reviewed and approved by the MGH Subcommittee on Research Animal Care (SRAC) – OLAW Assurance # A3596-01. The protocol as submitted and reviewed conforms to the USDA Animal Welfare Act, PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the "ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" and other applicable laws and regulations. The protocol is approved for a three-year period, subject to submission of annual reports.

Please note that if a SRAC member had a conflict of interest with regard to the review of this protocol, that member left the room during the discussion and the vote on this project.

As Principal Investigator you are responsible for the following:

- 1. Compliance with MGH SRAC/CCM Policies governing the care and use of animals.
- 2. Submission in writing of changes to this project for SRAC review and approval prior to initiation of the change.
- 3. Submission of annual progress reports to the SRAC for review and approval.
- 4. Submission of a copy of this approval to CCM when ordering animals.

The SRAC can and will terminate projects that are not in compliance with these requirements. Direct questions, correspondence and forms to Diane McCabe, the IACUC Manager, Tel: (617) 724-9718, Fax: (617) 724-2475.

